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THE TIMES

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20p

THE TIMES

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Old and new
Values looks at modern day Victorian wallpapers

Rugby views
David Hands previews England against Ireland and Gerald Davies on Wales against France

BBC backs Panorama allegations

The BBC stood by the *Panorama* programme on alleged links between Conservative MPs and right-wing extremists. A statement issued after a meeting between the BBC and Conservative Party leaders said that the corporation remained convinced that the programme was well-founded and the party remained convinced it was not

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Campbell out

illness has ruled Ollie Campbell out of Ireland's rugby team to play England at Twickenham tomorrow. His place will be taken by Tony Ward Page 2

Tight rein on public spending paves way for lower taxes

- **The public spending White Paper, with its plans for tight spending curbs, paves the way for a series of tax-cutting budgets**
- **In real terms, the level of public expenditure is expected to remain broadly unchanged until 1986-87, allowing tax cuts as the economy grows**
- **Cuts in lending to state industries and in council spending will offset big rises in the defence, health, and social security budgets**
- **Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, criticized the White Paper severely**

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The Government paved the way yesterday for a series of tax-cutting budgets with the publication of its public spending plans showing tight curbs on spending over the next three years.

Between now and 1986-87 the level of public expenditure is expected to remain broadly unchanged after allowing for inflation, which ministers believe will leave room for tax cuts as the economy grows.

The prospects for next month's budget also look more promising. Less overspending than expected this year and a big reserve for unforeseen contingencies next year are likely to increase the scope for Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to cut taxes or further reduce borrowing.

The public spending White Paper discloses that total spending in the 1983-84 financial year is expected to be £120.3bn, £700m more than planned last year but a good deal less than many in the City had feared. Spending in 1984-85 is planned to rise by 5 per cent to £126.4bn, in line with expected inflation.

In the two following years the White Paper indicates that spending is expected to increase by 4.5 per cent in 1985-86 to £132.1bn and by 3.5 per cent in 1986-87 to £136.7bn.

The price assumptions for these years are not published until the Budget, but the figures imply an ambitious inflation target of about 4 per cent in 1985-86, declining in 1986-87. If prices rise more quickly than that, an unchanged level of spending in cash terms will mean a squeeze in the amount of goods and services provided.

Introducing the White Paper, Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the Government intended to hold the level of public spending "broadly constant" in inflation-adjusted real terms.

He added: "As the economy continues to grow, public expenditure will represent a decreasing share of the national product, thus providing the scope to reduce the burden of taxation which it now imposes on individuals and industry alike".

Spending is expected to fall to 42 per cent of national product in 1984-85 from 43 per cent this year. If the Government can stick to its plans, unlike in past years, and growth continues at 2.5 to 3 per cent a year the proportion would drop to about 40 per cent by 1986-87, just below the level it was at when the Government took office in 1979.

The overall picture of stable real spending disguises big changes in individual programmes, and has been helped by the inclusion of assets sales of £2bn a year over the next three years, a practice sharply criticized on Wednesday by the all-party Treasury select committee of MPs.

Big increases in the budgets for defence, health, and social security (which now accounts for more than a quarter of all public spending) will be offset by cuts in lending to state industries, and in local authority spending, including housing and education.

The Government confirmed yesterday that the commitment of Nato to increase defence spending by 3 per cent a year in real terms would lapse after 1985-86. No real increase in defence spending is planned in 1986-87.

The Treasury has also built in much bigger margins for contingencies than in the past, rising from £2,750m next year to £4,750m in 1986-87, in an effort to stop an overrun of the totals through unexpected events or straightforward errors in prediction.

Projected investment in the energy industries includes £800m for new coal mines, which the Government will pay for, changes in the electricity distributions system, which the electricity supply industry will finance, an £2,400m worth of capital projects planned by the British Gas Corporation, and which it will pay for out of its own revenue.

The plans were criticized severely Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor.

He described the White Paper as "complacent and callous". It was a continuation of the policy that had done so much damage to the country over the past four years, producing more than three million unemployed and a "very substantial" deterioration in the social services.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, called for a big programme of public investment. But the plans were broadly welcomed by the employers' organizations, the CBI and the Institute of Directors.

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1984-85 to 1986-87 Stationery Office, (mnd 9143: Vol I, £5.65; Vol II: £11.50).



Downhill to the top: Bill Johnson, of the United States, in only his third season in Europe, races to a downhill gold medal in the Winter Olympic Games at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. Peter Mueller, of Switzerland, took the silver medal Reports, page 20.

Record 17 to stand in poll

**From Anthony Bevins
Chesterfield**

A record 17 candidates are in the running for the Chesterfield by-election on March 1. At the close of nominations yesterday the returning officer disclosed that the contest would exceed last year's Southwark, Bermondsey record by one candidate.

The full list of those nominated is:

Miss Helen Anscomb, of Newbury, Death Off Roads: Freight On Rail;

Mr Jitendra Nim Bardwaj, of Boyford, near Hertford, Yoga and Meditation;

Mr Anthony Neil Wedgwood Benn, of London, Labour;

Mr David Edward Bentley, of Grindleford, Derbyshire, Four-Wheel Drive Hatchback Road Safety;

Mr Nicholas Henry Bourne, of London, Conservative;

Mr Donald Butler, of Thame; Oxfordshire, Buy Your chesterfield in Thame Party;

Mr David Michael Cahill, of London, Reclassify Sun Newspaper as a Comic;

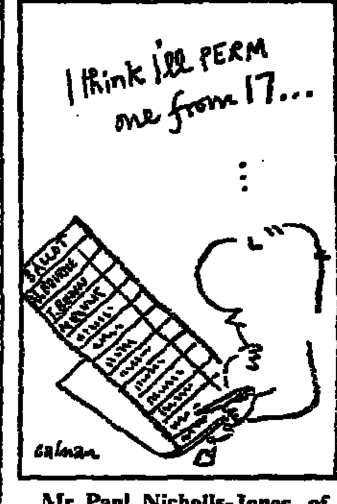
Mr John Connell, of Winchburgh, West Lothian, Peace;

Mr John Victor Davey, of Chesterfield, no Increase in Dental Charges;

Mr Christopher Stuart Hill, West Drayton, Prisoner: I Am Not a Number;

Mr Thomas Arthur Layton, of Hove, Spare the Earth (Ecology);

Mr Bill Maynard, of Sapcote, Leicestershire, Independent;



Mr Paul Nicholls-Jones, of Rhondda, Independent (The Welshman);

Mr Max Gascoyne Payne, of Sheffield, Alliance;

Mr Giancarlo Renato Piccaro, of Worcester, Official Acne Party;

Mr Sid David Shaw, of London, Elvisly Yours, Elvis Presley Party;

Lord David Edward Sutch, of London, Monster Raving Loony Party Last Stand.

Lord Sutch remarked that the Prisoner candidate and the Elvis Presley candidate were going to get together and use the song "Jailhouse Rock" as their campaign theme.

Ceasefire move in Angola war

Angolan and South African negotiators, meeting in Lusaka with the United States as mediator, announced joint steps to establish an effective ceasefire in their border war, which could lead to a wider peace settlement and independence for Namibia.

United States officials said American observers could be sent, if requested, to monitor the disengagement of forces. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, said on Wednesday that this disengagement was under way.

Commission set up, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Kremlin struggle for power goes on

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There were reports circulation in Moscow last night of a continuing power struggle within the 12-man Politburo, which met yesterday afternoon for the first time under the new Soviet leader Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

The Young Generation faction on the Politburo led by Mr Michael Gorbachov, aged 52 was said to be angry over the suppression of a speech made by Mr Gorbachov at last Monday's Central Committee meeting.

At the meeting, an extraordinary session held in private, Mr Chernenko was finally elected General Secretary of the party, five days after the death of Mr Yuri Andropov. The delay was said to be due to an intense factional struggle as the younger Politburo members and Central Committee secretaries groomed for power by Mr Andropov resisted the rise of Mr Chernenko, aged 72, whom they regarded as a throwback to the Brezhnev era and unlikely to inmplement Mr Andropov's forward looking reforms.

Until yesterday it had not been revealed that Mr Gorbachov had made a speech at Monday's session. An official account of the meeting published in booklet form showed that Mr Gorbachov had loyally called for unity and unanimity

"There would have been no harm in mentioning this in *Pravda* on Tuesday," an observer said. "But the old guard is apparently afraid of Gorbachovs influence and afraid the younger generation will stage some kind of coup, forcing Chernenko out of office".

Yesterday's *Pravda* reported Mr Chernenko's meetings with Dr Castro, Señor Ortega of Nicaragua, Mr Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan and Mr Pierre Trudeau of Canada on its front page, but did not carry the stamp of a new personality. "There is not yet any sense of a Chernenko era opening up" one diplomat remarked.

Mr Gorbachov has been prominent on television since Mr Chernenko took over, and was shown standing close to the new party leader both at President Andropov's lying in state and at the funeral on Red Square. This would appear to make him an effective heir apparent, representing the younger generation of Politburo members which also includes Mr Grigoriy Romanov, aged 61, Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, aged 57, and Mr Geidar Aliyev, aged 60. Some members of the old guard resent the implication that Mr Gorbachov will shortly take over from the aging and ailing Mr Chernenko, however, and are anxious to suppress the suggestion that he is waiting in the wings

Leadership race, page 7
Letters, page 13

British four on Oscar short list

**From Ivor Davis
Hollywood**

Four British Actors, Michael Caine, Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Tom Conti, will battle it out with the American Robert Duvall for this year's Oscar for best actor in the Academy Awards to be presented on April 9.

Not for 20 years have British screen stars so dominated the field. Michael Cains, aged 50, was nominated for his role as the boozy professor of English teaching fellow Briton Julie Walters, who was nominated for best actress, the finer points of literature in *Educating Rita*.

Albert Finney's nomination was for his role in *The Dresser*, as was Tom Courtenay's. Tom Conti's was for playing Cowan McGland, in *Reuben Reuden*.

They all face stiff opposition, however from Robert Duvall in *Tender Mercies*.

From top left: Finney, Courtenay, Julie Walters, Caine.

The last time British actors took four of the five best actor nominations was in 1964. Rex Harrison won for *My Fair Lady* against Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton in Becket and Peter Sellers in *Dr Strangelove*.

Julie Walters faces the firm favourite, Shirley Maclaine, for *Terms of Endearment* and her co-star, Debra Winger, as well as Meryl Streep for *Silkwood* and Jane Alexander for *Testament*.

The British picture *The Dresser* picked up five nominations including best film, and best director for Peter Yates. Yates is up against Ingmar Bergman for *Fanny and Alexander*, Mike Nichols for *Silkwood*, the Australian Bruce Beresford for *Tender Mercies*, and James Brooks for *Terms of Endearment*.

Muslim militias advance on Gemayel's last stronghold

**From Robert Fisk
Beirut**

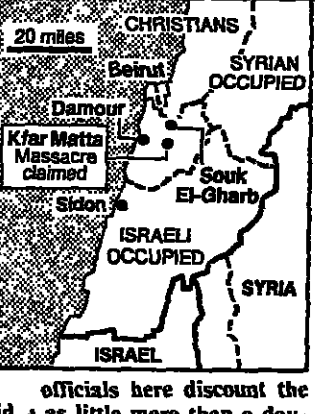
The Lebanese Army withdrew the broken remnants of its Fourth Brigade by sea to East Beirut yesterday, as Druze and Shia Muslim militias threatened to break through the Government Army's last position in the mountains above the capital and advance towards the suburb of Baabda, where the President has his palace.

President Gemayel is believed to have been told through intermediaries yesterday that, if he immediately abrogated the unofficial peace treaty with Israel and instituted reforms, both the druze and Shia militias would be prepared to restart negotiatons.

Last night, however, Christian units of the Lebanese Army were planning new defence lines on the edge of East Beirut itself in preparation for another attack.

Lebanese officials privately dismissed reports from Washington that a new peace plan had been agreed by Mr Gemayel that would immediately replace departing Multinational Force troops with UN soldiers.

The American government apparently accepted Mr Gemayel's word that such a plan, supprted by the Saudis and the Syrians, was feasible,



officials here discount the id a as little more than a daydream.

The fate of the Lebanese Army's Fourth Brigade, however, hangs heavily over both the Army command and the Americans. Half the brigade deserted to the militias, but Lebanese Army officers and Western sources insisted yesterday that reinforcements and extra artillery sent south of Beirut by sea had been forbidden to land by Israeli troops.

A Western source also said that the brigade had been demoralized during a counterattack by false radio instructions sent to them over the military radio net. The source refused to speculate about who might have sent these sophisticated messages.

An Israeli battalion crossed the Awali River yesterday morning in an armoured reconnaissance patrol to observe the extent of the Lebanese Army's defeat south of Beirut.

The next Druze assault is anxiously awaited at the mountain village of Souk el-Garb by what remains of the Lebanese Army's front-line strength.

- **Britons wounded: Two ITN journalists, Brent Sadler (reporter) and Ted Henley (cameraman), were wounded when they came under fire yesterday while visiting Druze positions in Damour (Reuter reports).**
- **NEW YORK: Britain last night sought international support for its diplomatic initiative to enhance the role of the United Nations in Beirut, as the Security Council continued to debate ways of extricating the Multinational Force from Lebanon and providing a viable alternative (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).**

Mr John Margetson, the British representative, repeated the two principal suggestions made by the Government, for the expanded use of the 50 foreign observers already stationed in Beirut, and of the good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

15,000 flee, page6
Reagan backing, page 6

Film too dreadful to screen

Evidence of village massacre

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

In their advance southwards from Beirut yesterday, Druze militiamen discovered horrifying evidence of the massacre of Druze villagers – apparently by the Christian Palange – that took place five months ago when the Israelis hurriedly withdrew their army from the Chouf mountains.

The Druze have found dozens of bodies of men, women and children – most of them in an advanced state of decomposition – in and around the village of Kfar Matta, 15 miles south east of the capital.

Blaming both the Phalange and the Lebanese Army for the slaughter, the Druze allowed an American television crew into the village yesterday afternoon. Much of the film they took is too dreadful to show on television.

They found the corpses of women and children in fields around Kfar Matta, skeletons lying in the streets of the village and a whole roomful of corpses upon which lay the badly decayed body of a woman in a scarf, her hands spread backwards. All the dead had apparently been shot.

The Druze also displayed a crumpled pillowcase partly covered in bloodstains on which a note had been written by Clarke Todd, the Canadian television reporter who was fatally wounded by shrapnel in the village last September. The message was addressed to his family in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, and said, in very shaky handwriting, "Please tell my family I love them. Clarke." Mr Todd's body was recovered by the International Red Cross last September a week after he died.

Mr Todd, who was accompanied by an American television crew, had gone to the village on the morning of the Israeli withdrawal last September, but was hit in the chest by shrapnel when the crew came under artillery fire. They took him to a barn end before walking back to Beirut under fire.

Mr Todd had ordered them to leave him and they at first thought he had survived. A week later, however, the Red Cross brought his body to Sidon where it was identified by officials of Canadian Television.

Several Druze militiamen said they could identify relatives among the dead. The film brought back to Beirut last night shows one young man with a rifle over his shoulder pointing to what he said was the body of his aunt. In a field beside him lay a skeleton in the remains of a woman's dress, clutching a much smaller skeleton, apparently that of a child. Human bones lay in some streets, at one point next to a torn woman's handbag, at another beside a gutted car. One forearm still had a wrist-watch attached to it.

In many villages in the Chouf last September, the Israelis left their Phalangist allies behind when they withdrew. Rumours began to circulate in Beirut within a few days of massacres

Continued on back page, col 8

Thatcher still firm on GCHQ

**By David Felton
Labour Correspondent**

Civil Service unions reacted angrily last night to the Prime Minister's apparent rejection in the Commons of the compromise proposals to avoid a union ban at GCHQ which they had put forward in secret talks with Cabinet officials.

Leaders of the nine unions yesterday approved a paper later sent to Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet, in which they set out in detail their proposals. One official said: "We have gone as far as we can."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons that the ban on union membership was the only effective guarantee of national security.

"I have yet to see anything that satisfies me that the Government's objectives can be reached by any other method than that which the Government has laid out."

Mrs Thatcher did say, however, that her offer to meet the unions again stood.

The unions received strong support at a TUC rally last night from Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, who said that during his five years as Foreign Secretary and then Prime Minister, the United States had more than once expressed its admiration for the work of the Cheltenham communications base.

"I must add that during my period of office Cheltenham gave me no reason to be concerned that trade union membership would provoke a conflict of loyalties," Mr Callaghan said.

It appeared last night that the Government's view that union membership at Cheltenham

Continued on back page, col 1

TUC asks unions to review procedure on Labour Party levy

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Unions are being asked to conduct an immediate review of the system whereby members pay a political levy to the Labour Party as part of a code agreed between the Government and TUC leaders.

Under a statement of guidance published yesterday the TUC would "strongly recommend" to its member unions which are affiliated to the Labour Party that they undertake a reappraisal of the procedures.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, has made it clear that if the code is not endorsed by the General Council of the TUC next Wednesday, or if it does not receive the full cooperation of unions, he would resort to legislation.

The Government had announced its intention to introduce a law changing the present system whereby union members have to "contract out" of the political levy, to one where Labour supporters would have to make the effort to "contract in."

In meetings between Mr King and Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, a new voluntary code was agreed instead. It was one of the first signs that the Government was prepared to compromise with the labour movement.

Under the statement issued yesterday, which is likely to be endorsed by the General Council, the TUC has promised that union members will be made aware of existing rights and that all the information required to contract out is made easily available. The TUC will act as adviser to unions which encounter problems in adhering to the new code.

Under the code each union is called on to draw up an information sheet on its political fund, say why it exists and point out that anyone has a legal right to opt out without losing any union benefits.

The document will be required to state the total amount of the political levy and what proportion it is of normal subscription fees. Information on how to contract out should also be made available.

The information sheet would have to be provided to new recruits, to existing members on request and to all members as soon as practicable after a ballot on the establishment of, and on the continuation of, the fund. The Government is still determined to include in its Bill a clause making regular ballots compulsory.

Unions will have to ensure that no obstacles are put in the way of those seeking to opt out and that "prompt and effective" procedures for exemption operate in accordance with the Trade Union Act, 1913. There should also be a right of access to union accounts.

Amendment agreed to Police Bill

By Peter Townsend, Home Affairs Correspondent

A sizable concession was made by the Government last night in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill over powers to hold people without charge.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Home Affairs, said during the committee stage of the Bill that the Government accepted the need in principle to provide for an extra hearing by magistrates before detention for serious arrestable offences could be extended to a maximum of 96 hours.

Already extension of detention beyond 24 hours has to be authorized by a police superintendent or more senior officer and beyond 36 hours by magistrates, before whom the suspect would have a right to be present and legally represented.

Between that 36-hour stage and the maximum of 96 hours, Mr Hurd now agrees in principle that there should be a second magistrates' hearing. Before an amendment is drafted to the Bill he intends to consult the Magistrates' Association.

But Mr Hurd opposed Opposition attempts to reduce the maximum of 96 hours which, he said, was necessary to allow some investigations, of which he cited examples, to be completed.

The Opposition had attacked the 96-hour proposal as a threat to prisoners' right to silence, related to the principle that they were innocent until proved guilty.

Mr Gerald Bermingham, Labour MP for St Helens South and a solicitor, and Ms Clare Short, Labour MP for Birmingham, Ladywood, both spoke of the danger of people confessing to crimes they did not commit of which there were already examples.

Mr Hurd said that the Bill did not take away the right to silence. Although there was a right not to answer questions, there was right to ask them, and that was the present position. He denied that it was police practice to wear down people by putting questions repeatedly.

At present detention without charge is open-ended in serious cases. People arrested can be detained for long periods on police authority alone, without any form of judicial sanction.

There are no criteria for the lawfulness of detention, even within the elastic time limits. In effect arrested people can be detained at the sole discretion of the police. Habeas corpus is an ineffective remedy for alleged abuse of police authority, as it provides an independent review too late.

Among safeguards sought by Labour MPs in the present Bill was an amendment denying the right of the police to authorize continuing detention if a person had not consented to answer their questions under detention.

Justification for extending detention without charge should not include the need to obtain evidence, by questioning the person held, in relation to an offence for which he was under arrest, the Opposition said.

Bomb attempt

Detectives last night were investigating a firebomb attempt on a new housing estate at Rhyl, North Wales. No one has claimed responsibility for the device, which was dealt with by the army.

GLC 'prime candidate for capping'

By Hugh Clayton

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, made it clear yesterday that the Greater London Council was a prime candidate for rate capping next year. He said: "At the moment it looks almost inevitable. The GLC's 7.5 per cent rate cut was a fraction of what it should have been."

But he said that a list of councils on which the GLC figured prominently was not a "hit-list" of the first councils to be rate capped. He was commenting outside a meeting of the Commons standing committee on the rates Bill on a list of councils which he had given to all committee members.

The list of 33 councils showed the overspenders in the Government's view according to 11 criteria. Five, including the GLC, overspent under all of the criteria.

Mr William Waldegrave, a parliamentary under-secretary in Mr Jenkin's Department, told the committee that the list should be treated with caution. First, it applied to spending this year, even though rate "capping" was not meant to start until next year when spending patterns might have changed.

Councils overspending under all the criteria on the list were: the GLC, Basildon, Greenwich, Islington and Merseyside. Those caught by all but one were North Tyneside, Southwark, Haringey, South Yorkshire and the Inner London Education Authority. Those caught by all but two were Sheffield, Lambeth, Lewisham, and Brent.



Harmony restored: Mr Michael Evans (left), leader of Bath's Pump Room trio with colleagues after his reinstatement.

Crescendo saves musician

From David Cross, Bath

Mr Michael Evans, leader of the world's oldest surviving classical trio, was back with his violin yesterday amid the Georgian splendour of Bath's world-famous Pump Room after winning a long fight to save his job.

In a campaign which would have struck a chord with Beau Nash, the self-proclaimed King of Bath who made the city a fashionable centre for the rich in the early eighteenth century, several hundred patrons of the elegant café signed a petition seeking Mr Evans's reinstatement.

After three years as leader of the trio which was featured many times on BBC radio, he was told last Friday that he would be dismissed for playing too many wrong notes.

Mr Denis Easterby, director of Leisure and Tourist Services in Bath, who gave Mr Evans his notice, said yesterday that Mr Evans's playing was sometimes "terribly shakey, to put it mildly". Very often customers would wince as a wrong note was played.

"My main concern was one of quality", Mr Easterby said. "We are a major tourist city and we must try to make all our entertainment the best available."

Nevertheless, when news of Mr Evans's impending departure leaked, patrons and staff at the Pump Room rallied to his support.

Miss Katie Giles, aged 19, a waitress said: "We think he is great and we were determined to save him."

Other customers wrote letters of support for Mr Evans to the Department of Leisure and Tourism. Of the 18 received, only one opposed him.

Confronted with this crescendo of anger, the city's spa committee met this week and voted overwhelmingly in favour of retaining Mr Evans's services

But as a concession to Mr Easterby, they agreed to consider engaging a professional musician to listen to prospective musicians in the future.

Thatcher is accused of evasion by Shore

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Three further messages were exchanged yesterday between the Prime Minister and Mr Peter Shore on the Oman university contract and Mr Mark Thatcher's role in helping a British company, Cementation International, to secure it.

Mrs Thatcher, in a second letter to Mr Shore, Labour spokesman on trade and industry, said that she had disposed on Wednesday of his allegation that she had pursued, while on an official visit to the Gulf in 1981, the interests of a company with which her son had a financial connexion.

Mr Shore accused her of evasion. Interviewed on Radio 4's *The World at One* he said he did not know if the Prime Minister was tired and overwrought or was being brazen.

Mr Shore said that she had shown "such bad judgment as I have not found in a postwar Prime Minister." It implied that the rules of conduct for ministers needed to be either redefined or more rigorously enforced.

On Thursday Mr Shore put to Mrs Thatcher a number of questions, as reported in *The Times* yesterday, relating to her son's role on behalf of Cementation and the circumstances which took him to the Gulf while the Prime Minister was there.

In reply, she took up what she described as his central point. "You accused me of batting for a single firm in which a mamber of my own family had a direct financial interest in the outcome." Mrs Thatcher wrote.

"You did not produce a shred of evidence... It is quite untrue." She added that the rest of his letter was irrelevant.

Yesterday, Mr Shore wrote again and observed that none of his specific questions, which he repeated, had been answered.

● The Leader of the Commons, Mr John Biffen, yesterday rejected Labour MP's claims that Mrs Thatcher had advanced the cause of her son over the award of the Oman university building contract to Cementation International. (the Press Association reports).

He also rejected appeals for a statement from the Prime Minister after the publication of her exchange of letters with the shadow Commons leader, Mr Peter Shore.

In those she strenuously denied helping her son Mark win a £300m contract for the company

Leading article, page 13

Journalists who incite crimes risk prosecution

By Frances Gibb

Journalists who incite or encourage others to commit criminal offences for journalistic purposes will be liable for prosecution themselves in future, Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General said yesterday.

In a parliamentary answer which outlines a tougher stance on such journalistic activity, Sir Michael said: "I am bound to say that in future I cannot condone such contraventions of the law."

His statement, in answer to a question from Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for South Thanet, comes after conviction last September of Miss Nikki Freud, daughter of Mr Clement Freud, the Liberal MP for Ely, for supplying and possessing controlled drugs.

The offences were initiated or encouraged by a journalist from the *News of the World* which, the Attorney General said, subsequently carried a full report on its front page of the journalists role in exposing the accused's activities.

Prior to publication, the newspaper made its dossier available to the police and the journalist provided a witness statement with a view to the prosecution of Miss Freud.

Sir Michael said: "The Director of Public Prosecutions and I have given anxious consideration to the implications of this form of investigative journalism.

"In our view it would be open to a court to find that a journalist acting in this way had committed criminal offences himself in relation to his incitement of the accused to supply him with controlled drugs and in relation to his subsequent possession of them."

Sir Michael's statement, held back until after several other prosecutions resulting from the same activities by *News of the World* journalists, is made "for the benefit of other newspapers considering a similar course of action".

Evidence as to their actions would be assessed with a view to possible prosecution on the same principles as the evidence against others who are not journalists, the Attorney General said.

An official in his department said: "Until now I have not been aware of journalists being prosecuted. The point of this statement is to make clear that they have no special immunity and that there are limits to which investigative journalism can go."

Doctor says police offered him deal

Dr Robert Jones claimed last night that murder squad detectives offered him a deal if he confessed to the killing of his wife, Diane, who vanished near their home at Lees Farm, Coggleshall, Essex, on July 23 last year.

Dr Jones, aged 40, said the offer was made during a question and answer session at Ipswich police station, in Suffolk, last November. Dr Jones, who was arrested and held for 55 hours four weeks after his wife's battered body was discovered in October last year, said that at one stage he was tempted to admit the killing.

He made his claim in a recorded interview for the BBC television programme, *Out of Court*, which was due to be shown last night. In the interview recorded earlier yesterday, Dr Hones told the reporter David Jessell, the police had offered him a deal that if he confessed and "made it easy on himself" he would not have to spend too long in jail.

He said the suggestion was made during a long and exhausting session of questioning and there was a time when he was tempted to perjure himself and admit the killing.

Dr Jones said later: "The police presented a version of events which they suggested could have been how it happened. I suppose the suggestion was that it could have been manslaughter."

Dr Jones's wife, who was 35, disappeared after a row with her husband in the bar of a village public house near their Essex home. He reported her missing nine days later.

Her badly decomposed body was found in woods at Brightwell, Suffolk, three months after she had disappeared. The police believed she had been beaten to death

During the search for her killer, Dr Jones was questioned on five separate occasions and his garden was searched seven times.

Last night, Detective Chief Supt Eric Shields, head of Suffolk CID, who is leading the murder hunt, refused to comment on the doctor's claims. A report is with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

1,400 idle at Cowley as strike continues

Three hundred more workers have been laid off at BL's Cowley plant near Oxford because of the strike which has so far cost the company an estimated £10m

The number of workers idle is now 1,400 and 100 employees of a Coventry components company have also been sent home.

No Acclaim or Rover cars have been made at Cowley since 220 workers in a trim shop walked out more than a week ago in protest at management plans to switch jobs for production to start on the new LM 11 model this spring.

At a meeting on Wednesday the strikers decided to stay out until at least Monday

Unionists silent on assembly pay row

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The leadership of the official Unionist Party kept an embarrassed silence yesterday as criticism mounted over the £93,967 paid in salaries and expenses to the 25 members who have boycotted the Northern Ireland Assembly since November.

The party was unable to produce figures to support its allegation that details of cash given to members were wrong. As the party came under further criticism from the Democratic Unionist and Alliance parties, there was no comment from the party leader, Mr James Molyneaux, or staff at its Belfast headquarters.

Since the beginning of the boycott, in protest at the murder of three church elders in co. Armagh, £93,967 has been paid in salary, secretarial allowances and travelling expanses to the party's Assembly members and the disclosure seriously damaging to the party, particularly as it faces European elections within four months.

The Official Unionists were being compared unfavourably yesterday with the Social Democratic and Labour Party and even Provisional Sinn Fein, which are also boycotting the Assembly but have refused salaries and allowances.

Mr Jim Allister, chief whip of the Democratic Unionists, said that it was preposterous for the Official Unionists to challenge figures prepared by the Assembly's accounts department. "When I consider the thousands of my constituents who are struggling to make ends meet then I, with them, feel angry over this scandal."

His party colleague, Mr George Seawright, urged Official Unionists to return the money or resign.

The dispute came hours after Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, made it clear that if the Assembly folded then Northern Ireland would be governed totally by direct rule

● Mr Prior has been asked to explain why prisoners in the Maze jail have been given copies of the official report into last September's escape by 36 IRA terrorists

Mr Molyneaux said: "This is all part of the bungling and mishandling which has done so much to destroy the morale of the prison service."

Soviet lupin may be grown for fodder

By Kenneth Gosling

Vladimir comes from the Soviet Union and could inspire a revolution in Britain as far as the countryside is concerned. Vladimir is a particular strain of lupin that is well suited to producing a new protein crop that could in time, become as familiar a sight in British fields as the yellow carpets of oil-seed rape.

It depends, according to Mr David Curry, MEP, chairman of the European Parliament's agricultural committee, on solving the present farm budget problems. Then, he says, our plant breeders are likely to receive EEC support.

The lupin, much favoured for its decorative nature, has a protein content of between 35 and 40 per cent, compared with the 24 per cent of peas and beans.

Mr Curry believes that if Europe wants to produce more of its own protein (and it now only manages a quarter of its needs for animal feeds), then it should be looking hard at lupin development.

Australia and Poland are boosting their production; Italy, South Africa and Germany grow limited amounts and the Soviet Union is a major producer.

Lupins are being evaluated in Essex by Hurst, Gunson, Cooper, Taber, a company of seedsmen who said that it was the strain *lupinus albus*, of which Vladimir is one, that they considered best suited to Britain.

Mr George Beaven, of the company, said: "We are being asked by various other seedsmen and by farmers to supply seed for them to do work on. This is still very much a babe in arms as an agronomic crop – with a certain amount of interest, concern and knowledge we should be able to look at it after two to three years."

Mr Curry thinks that the lupin could be the new big crop invasion of Europe, which has to import some £2,600m of soya meal, mainly from the United States and Brazil.

In Hungary, he says, lupins have been introduced in the diet of pigs, poultry and cattle; a mixture of lupins and oats for dairy cattle. And where the lupin has been grown with cereals and potatoes, the need for fertilizer has been cut by up to 20 per cent.

Shooting of animals defended

By Richard Evans

A leading naval surgeon who served in the Falklands conflict yesterday defended the need for animals to be shot for research into treating wounds.

Commander Rick Jolly, who ran the field hospital at Ajax Bay, said: "We don't like seeing animals suffer any more than anybody else, but the research carried out at Porton Down definitely had a beneficial effect of surgeons at the front line, which was reflected in the high survival rate.

I know something about the licensing system for those who do experiments and I an satisfied from what I have seen the control is rigorously and humanely exercised.

"As a military surgeon, you always want to know things work properly before you use them, especially with drugs."

In particular, he pointed to the dramatic impact that a drug tested on shot animals had had during the Falklands conflict. Metronidazole was given with great success to soldiers who had been shot in the stomach or suffered shrapnel wounds.

About 10,000 animals were used last year in Ministry of Defence experiments, but only about 50 involved the deliberate wounding of animals.



Mrs Joan Le Mesurier with three actors from *Dad's Army* (left to right) Ian Lavender, Bill Pertwee and Frank Williams (Photograph: John Voos).

Last laugh for actor who 'conked out'

John Le Mesurier gave hundreds of his friends and fellow actors a final laugh yesterday at his memorial service; tales about the man who in his own words "conked out" last November kept them in stitches.

After the service at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, London, known as the actors' church his widow, Joan, said: "It was a celebration of John's conking out.

"There was plenty of laughter. John would have enjoyed that. I can imagine him sitting up there smiling."

The addresses were given by two of Mr Le Mesurier's closest actor friends, Bill Pertwee and Mark Eden. Mr Le Mesurier as Sgt Wilson and Mr Pertwee, as the air raid warden, became household names in the television series *Dad's Army*.

Others paying their respects included Derek Nimmo, Joan Sims and Wendy Richards, the jazz musician, George Melly, the comedian, Max Wall, and Ned Sherrin.

Mr Le Mesurier, who died in hospital in his own town of Ramsgate at the age of 71, had been suffering from cirrhosis of the liver.

He wrote his own obituary for *The Times*: "John Le Mesurier wishes it to be known that the conked out on November 15. He sadly misses his family and friends."

He appeared in more than 90 films including *School for Scoundrels*, *The Wrong Arm of the Law*, and *The Pink Panther*.

Memorial service, page 14

Sale room

High bids for Victorians

By Huon Mallaliev

The strength of the sale of English watercolours at Christie's yesterday was in the Victorian section where a number of the more expensive lots were bought by the London specialist Christopher Wood.

Among them was a fine and large view of Bellagio on Lake Como by Myles Birket Foster, which sold for £12,960 against (estimate £4,000 to £6,000). In 1899, the year of the artist's death, this had sold for 285 guineas a respectable price for the time.

From the same era came a sugary but beautifully painted study of a girl and garden flowers by George Goodwin Kilburne, which reached £6,264 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000). "O holy Night", a large mother and child subject by the less well known Henry Raymond Thompson, made £5,940 (estimate £1,000 to £1,500). A study of a sparrow and bullfinches dated 1924 by Archibald Thorburn, took a bid of £5,400 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000). The sale made a total fo £112,423 with 7 per cent bought in.

At Crewkern in Somerset a sale of funiture held by Lawrence illustrated the strong demand for standard "brown" furniture and oak. A set of six sturdy George II walnut side chairs with wooden seats sold for £5,280, and an elegant George III mahogany secretaire bookcase reache £4,800. The sale produced a total of £117,500 with less than 2 per cent bought in.

Sotheby's were offering Decorative Arts, a category of sale that includes arts and crafts, art nouveau and art deco pieces. This made a total of £75,058 with just over 2 per cent bought in. There were several successful private bidders, including the buyer of a Liberty's "Cymric" silver and enamel frame dated 1903 at £3,740 (estimated £400 to £600).

An oak dining table with eight chairs ade to the designs of Betty Joel in a Portsmouth factory in 1928 was bought by the Portsmouth Museums at £1,760 (estimate £600 to £900).

A sale of books and manuscripts at Phillips made £98,042 with 16 per cent bought in. A letter from Edward IV to his "carpenters, masons and other artificers" dated 1463 reached £8,000 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000).

Correction

The funeral service at Badminton for the Duke of Beaufort, reported on February 9, was conducted by the Rev Tom Gibson, Vicar of Badminton, the duke's chaplain, not by the Rev Thomas Thomson.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 150; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 7.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $6.50; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 100

MI5 officer's lawyers lose challenge to secret hearing

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The public and the press are to be excluded from almost the entire trial of Michael Bettaney, the MI5 officer facing espionage charges, the Central Criminal Court decided in camera yesterday.

When Mr Bettaney, aged 33, of Coulsdon, Surrey, starts his trial on April 10 with not guilty pleas, the jury will be sworn in, the charges put and Sir Michael Havers QC, the Attorney General, will open the Crown's case but then the rest of the case will be in camera.

Mr Bettaney's solicitor, Mr Lawrence Grant, said after the hearing before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, that the court would not be opened again until the jury returned its verdicts.

The trial is expected to last eight working days and all the evidence, witnesses, the judge's summing up, and much of counsels' speeches will be behind closed doors.

Mr Grant said the use of the in-camera process to such an extent was unprecedented and had been agreed by the judge after an application by Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions. Other decisions had also been taken.

Mr Grant said that defence counsel had argued against the DDP's application in a hearing which lasted nearly four hours in court number one. The hearing, listed to take practice trial directions, began in chambers and was then moved into camera.

Mr Bettaney was brought from Brixton prison for the hearing. He was represented in court by Mr Michael Mansfield and Mr Kenneth Richardson appeared for the Crown. Sup John Westcott, from the Special Branch, was also in court.

The application of in camera proceedings so widely is likely to cause concern in legal circles.



Mr Bettaney: Facing six charges.

There is no means of appeal for the defence until the case has been completed.

Mr Bettaney faces a total of six charges under the Official Secrets Acts of 1911 and 1920. It is alleged that he passed on details of British assessments of the Soviet Union's intelligence networks in Britain, details of the expulsion of three Russians, and prepared other material to hand over to the Russians in 1983.

It is unusual for a defendant in such a case to plead not guilty but where it has happene in recent years, such as in the trial of Professor Hugh Hambleton in 1982, the court went into camera for only part of the case.

In cases where the accused have pleaded guilty, such as Geoffrey Prime, part of the hearings were heard in camera. The periods have covered areas such as an assessment of the damage done to national security. In Security Service, Special Intelligence Service, and MI6 witnesses.

After the hearing yesterday a spokesman for the DPP said he was unale to comment on what had happened at the hearing or the potential use of the in camera practice.

Benjie Leggate, aged six, with his pony Doughnut, and Jason, a Great Dane. (Photograph: Tom Kidd)

Cable giant ready to reveal film programme details

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The three potential programme giants of cable television are on the verge of revealing the schedules they hope will attract an audiee on a par with BBC or independent television.

The plans have been compiled in an atmosphere of secrecy and intrigue, which an executive compared to the launching of a car. But the first details will be disclosed on Thursday, when The Entertainment Network is expected to announce a big-name feature film channel through existing Rediffusion and Visionhire networks from March 1.

The decision by Entertainment Network to jump the gun will be closely watched by its two rivals which were reluctant to give away anything yesterday.

Mr Tony Watts, head of Thorn-EMI's film channel, which will be called Premiere, said that the information about programme schedules was commercially sensitive.

Mr Dennis Garcher, vice-president of the US cable group Home Box Office, which is involved in its British partnership with Goldcrest Television, 20th Century Fox and Columbia, Television Entertainment Group, said: "This is rather like introducing a new model of car and we are trying to keep things pretty much under wraps".

All three groups plan to establish the leading film service on existing and new cable networks. Cable operators believe that the film channel will attract most subscribers and be most profitable.

Mr Watts revealed that Premiere will be the only one of the three to make its own material, although he refused to disclose their subjects or casts.

All three groups are acutely aware that they will live or die by two factors: quality of films and the way they use the gaps between them.

Premiere had shot several short bridging programmes to link films, Mr Watts said. "There will be some conventional scheduling and some that is different to what you see at the moment. It is going to be a high-quality movie channel, with no old films at all.

"The main criticism of cable is that all it is going to carry is American crap, and that won't be the case with us."

Thorn-EMI and The Entertainment Network, a consortium of Rank, Plessey, Rediffusion and UIP, a joint venture of several Hollywood film companies, have one significant advantage over Television Entertainment Grove. Both outfits have member companies running cable networks.

They can expect to move straight on to cable as soon as programmes are ready, unlike TEG which must negotiate its way.

Mr Garcher said yesterday that the company was negotiating with several of the 11 new cable companies which were given licences to start new networks throughout the country last year.

"Our service will be film-based, coupled with entertainment specials, but we are going to wait as long as possible before "we announce firm details."

Independent television companies believe that the networks will offer films until around 2am, where there is a proven audience which they cannot serve because overtime payments to technical staff would be too high.

Gatecrasher in tussle at royal event

By Richard Evans

A man in his early thirties tried to force his way into the Royal Society of Arts headquarters in London yesterday minutes before the Prince of Wales arrived for the launching of a £500,000 appeal for the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Trust.

The man approached the reception desk, where Miss Lesley Sands asked for his invitation.

The man, who was wearing an extraordinary green wool tea cosy hat and had a chain tucked into his trousers, refused to produce and invitaion ans said he represented a lot of organizations".

Mr Wilf Dawson, the trust's director, tried to find out who he was. "He wouldn't speak; he wouldn't show any identification. He kept trying to hang up his coat and leave his briefcase. He hadn't got an invitation card and I said that I was sorry but he had to leave."

The man, wearing a smart grey suit, soon became violent and the police were called.

One policeman was punched in the face and three officers lost their helmets as the man was dragged struggling and protesting from the front foyer and down the street to a police van. When he reaced the van five policemen were restraining him.

The Prince, who arrived moments after the man was taken to Bow Street police station, was informed later of the incident.

BBC wins news awards

The BBC won the Royal Television Society's domestic news award last night for its coverage of the resignation of Cecil Parkinson. Mr John Tuss, of the BBC *Newsnight*, won the award for television journalist of the year.

Other winners were: *Coast to Coast* (TVS), daily news magazine: ITN, international news for its Beirut coverage; *TV Eye* (Thames), home current affairs for *Here Come Cruise*; *Panorama* (BBC), international current affairs, for *Called To Account – How Roberto Calvi Died*. A special commendation, went to Peter Hill, producer, and Martin Young, reporter, for the BBC series *Rough Justice*.

Riders bring in £4,000 for charity

Once a year the Leggate family of Gordon in Berwick raises funds for such local charities as the Edinburgh Eye Pavillion.

The last effort, a 20 mile sponsored horseback ride by people who had not ridden for 10 years, raised £4,000. Benjie Leggate, aged six, raised £200 with his sister Kate, aged nine, his pony Doughnut and a friend's Great Dane called Jason.

Benjie's father Mr Peter Leggate, said yesterday: "We were very happy with the proceeds but if anyone wants to send us any more donations we would be happy to have them".

Royal tour

Princess Anne left Rabat for The Gambia on the second stage of her tour of three African countries as president of the Save the Children fund

Court use of school reports criticized

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Young offenders may be receiving heavier sentences than they deserve because of the use of school reports in juvenile court proceedings, according to a report published today by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

It says that the school reports sometimes contain damaging and unsubstantiated allegations of criminal behaviour and pejorative remarks that would never be allowed in an adult court.

The examples it cites include: "Jimmy is a cancer to the student body. If he didn't commit this offence, then someone else in his family did"; "this boy is a born liar"; and "this boy is big, black and smelly".

A working party of the association found that such school reports were often kept secret from parents, children, and even lawyers.

There were also wide variations in practice across the country as to what should be disclosed and to whom.

Miss Vivien Stern, director of the association, said: "Many young people suffer serious injustice as a result of remarks in these reports.

The working party calls for a change in the Magistrates' Courts Rules, 1970, to require full disclosure of the contents of school reports to pupils and parents.

Schools, it says, should not recommend sentences. They should use a standardized form for school reports so that only relevant information is included and the report, signed by the author and school head, should be discussed with the child and parents before the court hearing.

School Reports in the Juvenile Court (Nacro, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU; £3).

Trawlermen fined £34,000

Two Danish trawler skippers who fished illegally for mackerel inside prohibited waters around south-west England, were each fined £17,000 by Plymouth magistrates yeaterday. They were the first prosecutions under new fishery protection rules.

Per Kristiansen and Ib Poul Bodskov both admitted trawling for mackerel inside the "mackerel box" off the Devon and Cornish coastline.

The area was established last November to help to preserve fish resources. Under EEC rules trawlers are allowed no more than 15 per cent mackerel among catches made inside the box. Mr Anthony Collin, for the prosecution, said that Bodskov's boat, the Anni Elisabeth, had 54 per cent mackerel and Kristiansen's vessel, the Alice Engholm, had 24 per cent on board.

When the defendants asked the magistrates to accept £20,000 towards the fine and allow them to pay the balance later, the magistrates decided that was not acceptable. The matter was adjourned until today to allow the Danes to raise the money.

Tricksters dupe unemployed

Police are hunting tricksters who swindled hundreds of unemployed men out of cash by promising them well-paid work abroad.

The fraud was aimed at the unemployed in the North and in Scotland. Tempting advertisements offering good jobs in Abu Dhabi for building workers, were placed in provincial newspapers.

Applicants were invited to send £250 as a "flight indemnity", which, they were told, would be returned along with £40 expensed on arrival in the United Arab Emirates.

But the flight did not materialize and the jobs did not exist. As many as 1,000 people replied to the advertisements and Scotland Yard believes many could have sent cash and cheques.

It is believed that two Welshmen in their early forties set up a company called CP Limited based in the Broadway, Fulham, west London.

Job applicants were asked to send a cheque for £250 or cash in a registered letter to A1 Charter, Priory House, Kingsgate Place, Hampstead, north-west London.

Man rescued by helicopter after forest cleared

A young forestry worker who was seriously injured when a tractor he was driving toppled over on a steep hill and rolled twice before he was thrown clear, was rescued by helicopter when his workmates cleared a patch of dense woodland to create a landing space.

Help was summoned from a farmhouse, but the forest at Halden Belvedere, near Dunchideock, Devon, was so thick that ambulancemen could not find them.

A police helicopter found the men but could not land. However, the helicopter landed a mile away and a doctor reached Mr Philip England, aged 20. The site was then cleared and the helicopter landed to collect Mr England.

Libel damages awarded to nightclubowners

Allegations that the Tramp nightclub in the West End of London was a disreputable establishment pratronized by vulgar and low-grade people won its owners and manager "substantial" libel damages in the High Court yesterday.

The allegations appeared in the In Town colum of *The Standard* newspaper in January and February, 1981.

The column's editor, Richard Compton Miller, had said the club was patronized by models that never model, actresses that never act and "tarty little pieces". He also made an offensive reference to the manager, Mr John Gold.

Mr Richard Rampton for Mr Gold and the owners, Coney Island Ltd, told Mr Justice Comyn they had been proud of Tramp's reputation

Judge settles £163,000 claim





Mr Justice Leggatt, a High Court judge, who claimed he had lost at least £163,000 in earnings because of injuries suffered in a road crash, won an undisclosed award in the High Court yesterday.

Sir Andrew Leggatt, aged 53, of The Old Vicarage, Old Woking, Surrey, was *one of three highest-earning commercial law QCs*

Sir Andrew sued H R Goodale, of Little New Street, London EC4, owners of a lorry which collided with a taxi in which he was a passenger; and the lorry driver, Mr Paul Owen Brown.

Optic laser technique aids heart-risk cases

From Ronald Faux, Glasgow

Doctors at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, are developing the use of lasers to reduce the risk of serious heart disease. They are experimenting with fibre optic laser thread that guides the laser beam along a congested artery and destroys any cholesterol deposits on its way.

The group is led by Dr Henry Dargie, a cardiologist and Dr Alexander Elliott, a nuclear physicist. They are assessing the side-effects that may arise from passing laser beams along a living artery. If the experimental programme succeeds, the technique may be used on a patient later this year.

Dr Elliott claimed yesterday that Glasgow was leading the field in Britain in the development of the technique. He thought it could become routine surgery in two or three years. The team believes it was used for the time during a heart operation in France 18 weeks ago. It is hoped that people suffering the early stages of angina could benefit from the treatment.

Dr Elliott added: "I would emphasize, it is no alternative keeping weight down, exercising and not smoking. They are still the best ways of combating heart disease."

Sponsored run

The England women's cricket team are staging a sponsored run from Lord's to the Oval on March 25 to raise money for the visit of their players to New Zealand this summer. The run will cover a four mile route from the Grace Gates at Lord's to the Hobbs Gates at the Oval. The former England captain, Rachael Flint, who is now manager of the team, has been sponsored by the Trimoco Group for £1,000 to complete the course.

Protest on tree felling planned

From our Correspondent Birmingham

A protest is being planned to save Violet Wood, inspiration for Edith Holden's *The Country Diary of An Edwardian Lady*, part of which is being felled by British Waterways.

The four-acre wood lies alongside the Grand Union Canal at Olton, Solihull.

Mr Roderick Beaumont, the protest organizer said yesterday that British Waterways had told Solihull District Council that it intended to prune the trees.

"Instead, they are cutting down a deep swathe along the canal side and will take about 800 of the 1,200 trees which must be on the site."

"They claim they are not cutting down mature trees, but are cutting everything before them – presumably to save money. Trees in good standing are going, along with lovely willows which overhung the canal and which needed only lopping. It is desecration".

British Waterways said that the wood was in a canal cutting. Trees had grown tall and thin and could fall onto canal and footpath users.

The felling started last week, almost to the day, February 12, 1906, when Edith Holden wrote: "I visited Violet Wood again today, the elm trees are just breaking into blossom and the willows are showing their downy, white catkins."

A fictionalized presentation of *The Country Diary of An Edwardian Lady* begins on independent television on Wednesday.

Wife tells jury of murder plot by Hell's Angels

The former mistress of the self-styled leader of a band of Hell's Angels told a murder trial jury yesterday of a plot to kill her husband that misfired.

Mrs Susan Turner said that her husband's car had been booby-trapped to explode when the lights were switched on, but the device failed.

She told Northampton Crown Court that those responsible were Mr Michael Bardell, aged 30, of the Hell's Angels "President Chapter" known as Lucifer's outlaws, and his second-in-command referred to as "sergeant at arms", Mr Stephen Parkinson.

Mrs Turner, a mother of two, said that after the alleged murder attempt her husband had a telephome call from Mr Parkinson and the two men agreed to meet. Later that evening her husband telephned her and she found him leaning against a phone box. He had been stabed, she said.

After the stabbing it was agreed that she should live with Mr Bardell during the week and her husband at weekends, she said part of the deal was that her husband would leave Northampton by midnight each Sunday.

Mr Bardell, of Overstone Lodge, Northampton and Mr Parkinson, of Great Holme Court, Northampton, deny conspiracy to murder Mr Turner. They have also pleaded not guilty to murdering Miss Deborah Allen, aged 19, and her boy friend, Mr David Cox, aged 23, after luring them to Salcey Forest in 1982.

It has been alleged that the killings were to enhance the standing of the chapter within the Hell's Angels movement and had been ordered by the London-based "Road Rats".

Mrs Turner said yesterday that Mr Bardell had shown her a Polariod photograph of what he said were the bodies of Mr Cox and Miss Fallon. The picture was supposed to be proof for the Rats that their instructions had been carried out, she said.

The trial continues.

Council drive on rogue landlords 'succeeding'

Westminster City Council's campaign against bad landlords has met with considerable success, it was disclosed yesterday.

On Tuesday AMK (Property Management) became the first company to be convicted under the Protection From Eviction Act, 1977, when it was found guilty of unlawful harassment.

Southwark Crown Court was told that eldrly residents at an apartment block in Mayfair were forced to put up with constant drilling, walls being knocked down, windows smashed, and the "accidental" flooding of their homes. AMK was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £21,500 prosecution costs. Defence costs are expected to exceed £100,000.

Mr Simon Mabey a councillor, said the authority was delighted with the result of the trial and gave a warning to "rogue landlords". He added: "We are even more determined to bring to task those who think they can bully and harass tenants just to make quick profits."

Conditions were made unbearable at Fountain House, Park Lane, by the property company in an attempt to persuade tenants to leave during a campaign of harassment between 1980 and March, 1982.

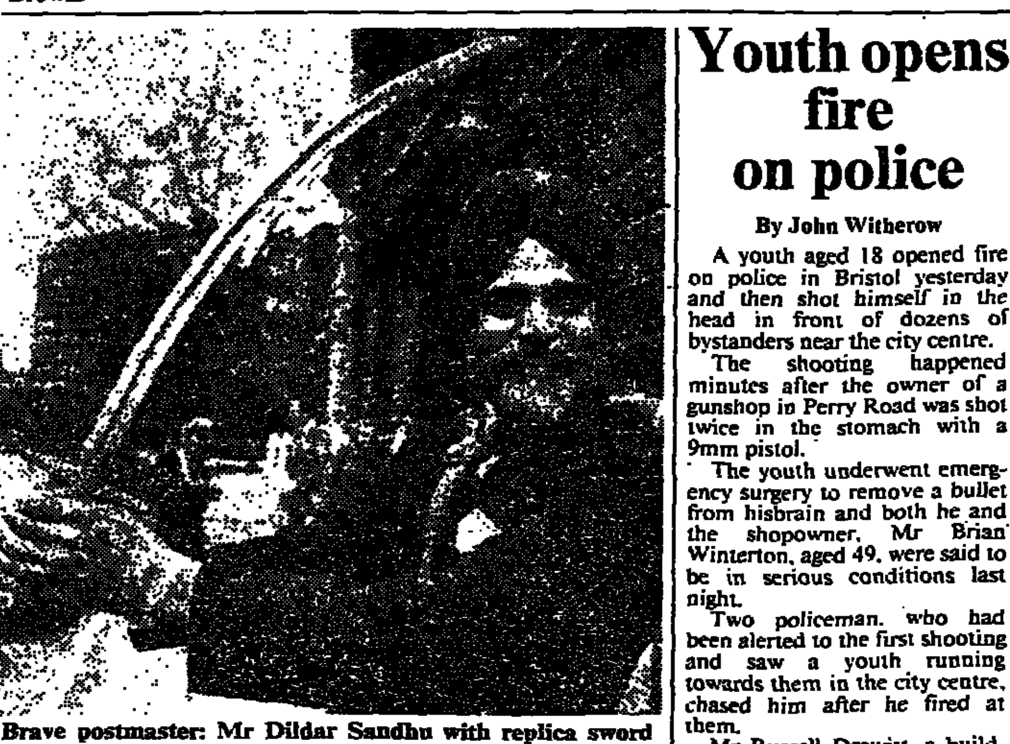
The court was told that the company, financed by Shaikh Abdul Khoja, who is said to own 60 companies in Britain, could make up to £7m profit from the sale of all the apartments. Empty flats are being sold for between £200,000 and £750,000.

The two men who previously ran the company on behalf of the Shaikh, Mr Andrew Lawson and Mr Bruce Harlow, have since resigned. They both denied in court that AMK had deliberately set out to evict tenants by making their lives a misery.

One tenant, Mrs Natalie Spiegel, a dressmaker in her sixties, kept a diary of the years of misery she went through after AMK bought the property in 1979. She told the court how the lights were constantly going out, the water supply was cut off for more than a month, her hallway was piled high with rubble and her workroom was destroyed by the builders.

Mrs Spiegel, who has lived in her flat for 26 years, described how she could not hold a conversation or use the telephone because of the constant noise.

She said: "From early morning and long after I returned from work they were drilling. The vibrations caused ornaments and perfumes to crash to the ground day after day.



Brave postmaster: Mr Dildar Sandhu with replica sword

Raiders flee sword duel

A sub-postmaster, Mr Dildar Sandhu, described yesterday how he fought off two masked raiders armed with a sword and dagger.

Mr Sandhu, aged 53 a Sikh, who trained in swordmanship as a child, snapped off a piece of sword blade to fence with one intruder. After a desperate duel they fled.

Mr Sandhu, of Chelsea Road, Bristol, said that the raiders burst in at 3.30 one morning last last May.

"One put a sword against my throat. I said: 'What do you want?' They said 'We want money.' These words were encouraging because I thought: 'They are after money, not my life.'"

"He was a tense person and it was peanuts for me to work on him".

Mr Sandhu was presented with a £500 bravery award by the chairman of the Post Office, Mr Ron Dearing, in London yesterday.

Youth opens fire on police

By John Witherow

A youth aged 18 opened fire on police in Bristol yesterday and then shot himself in the head in front of dozens of bystanders near the city centre.

The shooting happened minutes after the owner of a gunshop in Perry Road was shot twice in the stomach with a 9mm pistol.

The youth underwent emergency surgery to remove a bullet from hisbrain and both he and the shopowner, Mr Brian Winterton, aged 49, were said to be in serious conditions last night.

Two policeman, who had been alerted to the first shooting and saw a youth running towards them in the city centre, chased him after he fired at them.

Mr Russell Drewitt, a building worker, said he saw the youth fire at the police and then run into a side street.

"He came running up the hill obviously in a panic. He fiddled with his gun, then put it to his face and there was a shot and he slumped to the ground."

Another builder, Mr Adrian Snook, said "It looked as if the bullet went through his mouth and came out behind his ear."

The police have ruled out robbery as the motive for shooting the shopowner and believe it may have started with a dispute over a gun deal.

Ex-editor denies stories 'reeked of sex'

Mr Derek Jameson, the former Fleet Street editor, denied yesterday that stories in the *Daily Star* about Mrs Soraya Khashoggi had "reeked of sex".

Mr Jameson, aged 54, who is suing the BBC and an executive for libel, was being cross-examined in the High Court in London

He seeks damages over the broadcast on March, 1980, of the Radio 4 comedy series *Week Ending*, which described him as "an East End boy made bad" and claimed that his policy was "all the nudes fit to print".

Mr Jameson was asked by Mr John Wilmers, QC, for the BBC, about reports in the *Daily Star* on the life of Mrs Khashaggi, the former wife of the international arms dealer, Mr Adnan Khashoggi.

He said that parts of the story in which Mrs Khashoggi was quoted describing how she undressed in a speeding car were "not sexually titilating but rabelaisian. He did not think they reeked of sex.

He said he carried the Soraya Khashoggi revelations because they represented "one of the major stories of the year".

"There is very little explicit sex in these articles," he added. The *Daily Star* had paid Mrs Khashoggi £75,000 for her story, but she tore the cheque up because at the time she was making a multi-million pound maintenance claim against her former husband, Mr Jameson said.

Mr Jameson was questioned about an election day front-page article in the *Daily Express* which he had written when he was editor. The article advocated voting Conservative.

Mr Wilmers: asked: "Did that represent your own personal belief?"

Mr Jameson: "No, sir."

Mr Wilmers: "it would not be written from your heart?"

Mr Jameson: "Indeed."

The BBC and Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC Radio at the time of the broadcast, deny libel and say the words complained of by Mr Jameson were fair comment on a matter of public interest.

Mr Jameson said he found a *Week Ending* sketch about the battle between the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Star* over the Khashoggi story which had been played to the court "totally utterly offensive and insulting and not at all funny".

The hearing continues today.

Ban on trade unions the only guarantee

GCHQ DISPUTE

The Government remained convinced that banning trade union membership at the Cheltenham communications headquarters was the only effective guarantee to meet the Government's objectives, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister said during her first question time in the Commons since returning from Russia.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, joined in the laughter when, as he sat down after questioning Mrs Thatcher about her attitude to GCHQ, several Conservative backbench MPs held up large sheets of paper bearing the figures 0.1. This was a rejoinder to Mr Kinnock's comment when he returned to Britain yesterday that he had given himself 5.9 out of 6 for his performance during his visit to the United States.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, called for order, commenting amid laughter: We are not yet being televised.

There was also laughter when Mr Kinnock said he would give the Prime Minister, who had been speaking with a hoarse voice, the name of a good lozenge. Mr John Biffen, leader of the House, announced that MPs will debate GCHQ issue on Monday, February 27.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry North West, Lab) began by asking Mrs Thatcher if she had read the unanimous all-party select committee report on the trade union situation at GCHQ.

The reckless bungling by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary (he said) has caused enormous and unnecessary damage, to the international standing of our security system and to the individual integrity of employees.

The six point programme in the recommendations of the report represents a reasoned and constructive basis for an agreement to be reached.

There were interruptions from MPs as Mr Robinson spoke and The Speaker told MPs: The Prime Minister is evidently suffering from a cold and I hope the House will have consideration.

Mrs Thatcher: I note that the committee endorsed the Government's objectives but take a different view of how to achieve them.

The committee is entitled to its view but we remain convinced that the Government's approach provides the only effective guarantee to meet those objectives.

Intelligence agencies have been treated differently by successive governments.

Mr Kinnock began: Can I sympathize with the Prime Minister with her throat difficulty. I promise privately to offer the name of a very good lozenge which I have found to be efficacious.

He told Mrs Thatcher: On the vexed subject of GCHQ, the Civil Service unions have offered firm guarantees against disruption and they will be reaffirmed at the forthcoming meeting with the Prime Minister.

The select committee produced not only a constructive but a unanimous report. In the light of these developments, does she not realize that failure to adopt a course like the one suggested by the select committee would be to abandon fair play and commonsense and to neglect the national interest?

Mrs Thatcher: The Government will consider the select committee report but remains convinced that the decisions announced on January 25 remain the only effective guarantee of our objectives, which the committee endorsed.

Mr Kinnock: Clearly they are not the only effective guarantees. Does Mrs Thatcher think that anybody in the trade unions or in the select committee wanted any less than she to safeguard properly the security of this country?

Will she not realize for once that there are alternative courses of wisdom and that they can be secured by the processes of democracy and do not require to be made under the duress that she is enforcing at GCHQ?

Mrs Thatcher repeated that the committee had endorsed the objectives.

It said (she continued) that Government had to be satisfied that those objectives could be reached and I have yet to see anything which satisfies me (Labour interruptions) as head of the Government and therefore responsible for security services, that those objectives can be reached by any other method than that which the Government has laid out.

I have said I would see the trade unions again and I shall.

Mr John Gorst (Hendon North, C): Will she give an assurance that there are contingency plans made to meet the Government rather than trade union inspired disruption that could well result after March 1 if there is no agreement on either the basis of the select committee's report or her own plans?

Mrs Thatcher: As one of the problems has been the selective disruption from 1979 to 1981 and as everyone is interested in keeping security, I trust there will be no disruption.

Mr Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe, C): Is it not remarkable that during all of the many exchanges which have taken place across the floor of the House on GCHQ since January 25, not a single member on any of the Opposition benches has uttered a word of condemnation of the industrial activity which disrupted activities there, including those activities which took place between February and April 1979, when Dr David Owen had direct ministerial responsibility for these matters?

Mrs Thatcher: It is quite true that GCHQ was specially targetted for disruption because those who targetted it in the Civil Service unions knew that disruption there would be very damaging to the


Thatcher: Hoarse voice


Kinnock: Rated only 0.1

national interest. I shall be very grateful if Opposition MPs would condemn that action, if only in retrospect.

● During exchanges following the announcement that there would be a debate on GCHQ on Monday, February 27, MPs demanded that there should be an opportunity to vote on the issue rather than merely discussing it on the motion to adjourn.

Mr Kinnock asked whether the debate would be on the motion to adjourn or on a Government motion. He said that the type of debate would make a difference to the kind of response in the House.

Mr Biffen, Lord President of the Council, said the form of the motion would be considered through the usual channels between the parties, but clearly the report of the Select Committee on Employment would be a feature of the debate.

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds, South and Morley, Lab) a former Home Secretary: surely we are not going to have a debate on the adjournment about GCHQ. There have been a report of a select committee, statements from Number 10, statements outside. This House has to have a view. I hope there will be a vote a week next Monday.

Mr Biffen: I understand that point. It is a matter for consideration through the usual channels.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton, South, SDP): Will Mr Biffen give a commitment that the Government, despite the Prime Minister's comments today will not finally make up its mind before the debate.

If the Government is not prepared to budge on this, flying in the face of unprecedented moves by the unions to try to accomodate the Government, they will be encouraging non-cooperation at GCHQ as the only means of achieving the goals of the trade unions in this matter.

Mr Biffen: I am not going to argue on the content of policy.

Deal on political levy

Legislation on the payment of trade union political levies will only be necessary if the agreement worked out with the TUC fails in practice.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP) asked: Has she abandoned her previously expressed view that it is wrong in principle to have to opt out of paying the trade union levy?

Mrs Thatcher: We have not. He will find in our manifesto, which won a rather considerable majority, we said we would try to reach voluntary agreement with the trade unions.

The Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Tom King) believes he has reached such agreement with the TUC. If that agreement is effective, then that will be the end of the matter. If, in practice, that agreement is not effective, then we shall have to legislate.

Brittan refuses to be drawn on searches

POLICING

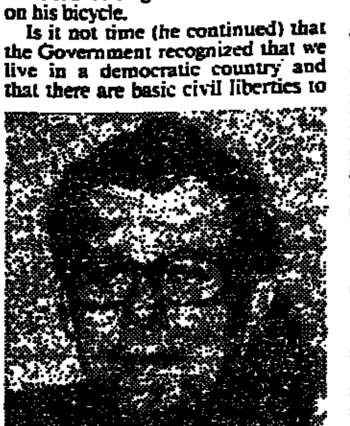
Opposition MPs unsuccessfully sought an explanation from Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, at Commons question time on why police officers had searched the home and bicycle bags of Mr Duncan Campbell, the investigative journalist.

Mr Brittan repeated that the warrant under which Mr Campbell's premises were searched was issued by the court, and that he was not answerable for the actions of the court.

The powers exercised by the police (he said) are ones which are challengable in the courts it anyone suggests that they have been exceeded.

Exchanges on the subject began when Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab) asked Mr Brittan if he was aware of the considerable concern over the way the papers and diaries of Mr Campbell had been searched arising from an accident on his bicycle.

Is it not time (he continued) that the Government recognized that we live in a democratic country and that there are basic civil liberties to


Winnick: There are basic civil liberties.

be respected, even by the Home Secretary and the authorities?

Mr Brittan: He is right in drawing attention to the question of civil liberties. It is for that reason that the warrant under which Mr Campbell's premises were searched was issued by the court in response to an application under the rule of law.

Later Mr Frank Cook (Stockton North, Lab) asked if when Mr Brittan last met the Metropolitan Police Commissioner he had asked him why officers raided the premises of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth in order to rifle documents and why they took a document relating to the disposal of radioactive waste at Billingham in Cleveland?

Mr Brittan: If there is any suggestion that everything that was done was not in accordance with the law it can be challenged in the normal way.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP). Explanations of that sort and the one involving Mr Campbell give rise to great concern that the police are going on general fishing expeditions in order to obtain information.

Will Mr Brittan discuss this with the Commissioner and after doing so consider if it is necessary to introduce further amendments to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to ensure that general fishing expeditions by the police did not take place.

Mr Brittan: I very much doubt that amendments to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will arise from these matters. There is certainly nothing in the Bill that should lead to the view that the position Mr Wrigglesworth is anxious about is rendered in any sense worse, but I will consider the points he makes

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab): Does he know why the courts gave authority to the police to rifle through the home and bicycle bags of Mr Campbell? Does he know who knocked Mr Campbell off his bicycle?

Mr Brittan: The answer to the second question is "No". The answer to the first is that I am not answerable for the actions of the courts.

It would be a dangerous step if the House were to expect ministers of the Crown to account for the actions of the courts, which are, and rightly, independent.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs: His answers about these police raids are totally unacceptable. He seeks to shuffle off his responsibility. He is the police authority for the Metropolitan Police.

By what justification did the police photo-copy the contacts book of Mr Campbell? By what justification are the police developing this dangerous tendency to go on fishing expeditions?

Will Mr Brittan inquire into these aspects and will he tell the Commissioner this is England and not South Africa.

Mr Brittan: I do not think the Commissioner needs any lessons from Mr Kaufman about what country we are in. He has done a great service to the people of London in reducing the level of crime.

I made it quite clear that the powers exercised by the police are ones which are challengeable in the courts if anyone suggests that they have been exceeded. The obtaining of warrants from the courts is something the courts have the right to decide.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Mr John Gummer has been an unlucky chairman of the Conservative Party so far. To some extent that was predetermined by the timing of his appointment.

The person who takes over a party machine immediately after a massive election victory is almost certain to see it slide downhill a bit. The power and the glory have been won: now is the time for the reaction.

At least one Cabinet minister was afraid last summer that he might be offered the appointment himself. There would be just time to lose a string of by-elections over the next couple of years, and then somebody else would be brought in to win the next general election.

Perhaps Mr Gummer has occasional nightmares that this may be his fate.

To make matters worse, he took over just in time to inherit the tawdry publicity of the Parkinson episode. Everybody will remember last October's Blackpool conference for Mr Parkinson's departure, not for Mr Gummer's arrival.

Now Mr Gummer is attracting some publicity that he could well do without for his part in the row over the *Panorama* programme on extremist infiltration into the Conservative Party. He has issued a denial that his warning of "very serious action" was a threat against the BBC, and one must take his word for it. In which case it was meaningless.

Careless words cost reputations

That Mr Gummer should object to the programme was not surprising. That he should have felt it necessary to protest forcibly was equally understandable: his party would have been out for his blood if he had failed to so so.

But the way in which Mr Gummer expressed his resentment landed Mr John Biffen in some embarrassment this week when he was standing in for Mrs Thatcher during Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons.

It is perhaps a little bit more than bad luck on Mr Gummer that this episode should have attracted so much attention. Careless words cost reputations in politics. But it would still be a pity if Mr Gummer's stewardship as chairman of the party was not seen in broader context.

At Central Office he has shown himself to be a diligent, efficient and eager administrator. The word "eager" is one that often comes to mind in describing Mr Gummer. It accounts for many of his strengths and his failings.

He is an absolute contrast to the late Reggie Maudling, whose perorations at party conferences were gems of sustained anti-climax, but who was one of the most formidable political performers of his day on television. Whether on the platform or in the studio he was always so relaxed

Gummer lacks calm authority

Mr Gummer is not relaxed. This gives a vitality to his public speeches but also makes him somewhat unsettling on television.

His speech to the Blackpool conference was no more than an exercise in political knockabout, but it was decidedly accomplished knockabout – witty and stirrring to a party in travail.

On television, however, he is liable to appear too excited, as he did in the *Panorama* programme. He does not have a television face.

This is another way of saying that in the intimate circumstances of the television screen he lacks the calm of assured authority. Perhaps that is not surprising because he has not been given the seniority appropriate to the chairman of the Conservative Party. He is the first person, at least since the Second World War, to combine the roles of chairman and junior minister.

Mr Parkinson was a junior minister when he was appointed, but once in office he took his place around the Cabinet table. That is where the chairman of the party ought to be.

Lord Thorneycroft was a much more effective chairman when the Conservatives were in opposition, and he took part in the weekly meetings of the shadow cabinet, than he was when they returned to government and he was unwilling to join the Cabinet.

But while it is bad enough if the chairman is outside the Cabinet, it is still worse if he is serving in a subordinate capacity within the Government.

If a person is a fitting choice to be chairman of the party he is worthy of being appointed to Cabinet rank.

Present law defers rather than deters

DIVORCE BILL

The objectives of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill were to enable the hollow shell of a mariage which had broken down to be dissolved with the minimum of distress, bitterness and humiliation, balanced against a respect for the institution of marriage, **Sir Michael Havers**, the Attorney General, said in the Commons.

The Bill proposes that a court faced with a financial application after a divorce should consider in every case whether it would be appropriate to make an order finally terminating the parties' obligations to one another, either at once or after a period of adjustment. This is the principle of the clean break.

It also reduces the three year period before a divorce is permissible to one year and provides for financial relief or related powers in matrimonial and other family proceedings.

He said the reduction from three years to one was designed to avoid the harm caused by the longer period which encouraged adultary and the birth of illigitimate children when a marriage broke down within a short period.

The Bill removed at the same time the discretionary exceptions to the three year rule of exceptional depravity and hardship. That had after resulted in an amicable resolution of proceedings not being achieved and allegations that could be harmful to young children. Because the outcome of an applicant on such grounds was unpredictable, couples were advised against it even in extreme cases.

The effect of the present rule tended to defer rather than deter divorce.

It was an illusion, or rather a delusion, to believe it possible to make a marriage endure when it had broken down, by imposing a temporary bar.

Some commentators favoured the complete abolition of a restrictive period, as is the law in Scotland. This would make it possible to marry today and present a petition for divorce tomorrow.

If we were starting with a clean slate (he said) then this might be the position to follow. But we are following the Law Commission's recommendation that some form of restriction is needed to debar irresponsible or child marriages and act as a buttress to help a marriage through difficult early days.

There would continue to be only one round for divorce – irretrievable breakdown by establishing adultery or unreasonable behaviour.

If any amendment to this clause at report stage gave rise to a conscience issue, then it would be given a free vote, if pressed on the floor of the House.

Part II of this Bill implemented the commission's recommendations on the financial consequences of divorce. These made the children the first priority.

The Lord Chancellor had received an increasing number of complaints about the way the courts dealt with financial arrangements. They came from ex-husbands and second wives who thought the system had moved too far in favour of ex-wives and from ex-wives who had given their husbands the best years of their lives and felt they had been cast off.

The priority must be the children. But it was also important that the

Havers: Three years encouraged adultery.

wife should have adequate means to provide the right surroundings and upbringing for the child. Giving first priority to children was likely to encourage men to keep up their maintenance payments.

It was a change of emphasis given in the guidance to the courts, rather than a radical re-structuring of the law relating to the financial arrangements, that the Bill was seeking to achieve.

None of them ever wished to see restored those appalling week or fortnight long cruelty cases designed to achieve nothing more than to try to reduce the claim for maintenance that might follow the granting of a decree. He was confident that the Bill had it right and that the apprehension expressed was misleading.

As it stood the Bill would not enable the trivial incidents of broken marriages to be paraded before the courts. It would confine the need to have regard to the parties' conduct to those cases where to disregard it would be offensive to justice.

Provisions would encourage the courts in appropriate cases to sever financial ties between the parties sometimes immediately and sometimes after an interval. Those provisions did not apply to financial orders where there were children.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) intervened to ask if, as a result of the Bill, the Attorney General thought the institution of marriage would be strengthened or weakened.

Sir Michael Havers said the Bill got rid of the abomination of having to apply for leave by establishing exceptional depravity, which was hated by judges, counsel and others who had to deal with it. He thought the Bill made it a much cleaner operation and was much less likely to induce people to lie. If that was right, it could only do good to the proposition of the sanctity of marriage.

Mr John Morris, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said body after body over the years had recommended the establishment of family courts. There was no greater clog in the way of change than existing institutions. Self-interest leapt into action to argue why something could not be done.

A change in the institutions would allow a different approach, and the activities of the Supplementary Benefits Commission and the courts would not continue as though there was no connexion between their respective roles. The changes proposed merely played with the problem. There was also an absence of provision for proper conciliation machinery.

If we believe in the importance of preserving marriage (he said) a fraction of the resources given to destroying marriage should be spent trying to preserve some of them.

Neither was there any proper provision for children. The Bill had been criticized because of an underlying assumption that maintenance of wives could be separated from that of children. But the startling omission was the lack of proper provision for children of one-parent families.

He suspected all the Bill did in practice was to make it impossible to have a divorce in less than one year, whereas now a court could, where cause was shown, grant it during that period.

Two feelings had been engendered by the Bill. One was the hope of husbands that their situation would be dramatically changed by the Bill. There would be a change for some, but he suspected for very few.

The second was the fear of divorced wives that they would inevitably be a lot worse off. For the majority, if not the overwhelming majority, there would be very little change, unless judges interpreted the words "what is just and equitable" in a manner wholly out of character for the British judiciary.

But for so long as these fears remained, it was for the promotors of the Bill to dispose of them. He hoped the Government would say they would consider amendments to allay some of these fears and to give clear guidelines to the courts.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) said the trauma of divorce was likely to be serious for children and it was right that financial provision for them should come first.

If conduct was to be broadly excluded from consideration by the courts, that would not strengthen marriage and family life.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private Member's motion on new technology.

Low pay levels motion rejected

The Opposition motion condemning the Government for deliberately fostering low pay levels and calling on it to abandon its threat to abolish wages councils was rejected in the Commons on Wednesday night by 289 votes to 196 – Government majority, 93. A Government amendment welcoming signs of economic recovery as carried by 286 votes to 196 – Government majority, 90.

Councils' performance to be monitored

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil defence had to able to deal with a wide range of possible forms of attack on this country and in such an event the lives of millions of people could depend on the planning and training of CD workers **Mr Douglas Hurd**, Minister of State, Home Office, said during Commons question time.

Answering a question on the future of CD he said: Performance under the Civil Defence (General Local Authority Functions) Regulations 1983 will be monitored by requiring reports from local authorities.

On finance, while the Government is satisfied with the allocation between local authorities and other civil defence agencies, the former have not so far spent up to planned levels. This is one of the matters we can follow up as a result of our monitoring.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L): If the view of a local authority is that civil defence is actually a false security, why would he seek to override that local view?

Mr Hurd: Because we are satisfied and Parliament agreed, this is a national and a common sense policy which should be carried through by central and local government for common sense and humanitarian reasons.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab): Is he aware that last Wednesday a police officer stationed in Coventry telephoned the speaking clock and set off the nuclear war alert system in Coventry, Nuneaton and Warwickshire? Since only a hundred people were woken by this alarm, does not the 86p per head a year spent on civil defence compared with the £16 a week a family on bombs, show there is no defence from nuclear war?

Mr Hurd: I do not think his conclusions come from his premise.

Mr Peter Rost (Erewash, C) said the only action taken by Derbyshire County Council was the setting up of a nuclear free zone.

Mr Hurd: Certainly no one is the least bit safer because their council has declared they live in a nuclear free zone.

MPs press for explanation of Gummer threat

The Government was again pressed in the Commons to explain what Mr John Selwyn Gummer, chairman of the Conservative Pary, meant when he said that "very serious action" would be taken agianst the BBC following the recent *Panorama* Programme alleging links between right-wing extremists and the Conservative Party.

During question time exchanges on the BBC television licence fee, **Mr William Hamilton** (Central Fife, Lab) said at 12½ a day, the licence fee probably represented the best value in the country today.

How does he explain the remarks (he asked) of Mr Gummer that "very serious action" will be taken against the BBC because it dared to put on a programme criticizing the Tory Party? Was that whipper snapper speaking for the Government when he used those words?

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State, Home Office: As I understand it serious criticisms were made of a particular programme and I understand they are being seriously considered. It has nothing to do with the licence fee.

Earlier, Mr Hamilton had asked about the future rate for the television licence.

Mr Hurd told him the present levels of the licence formed the basis of the BBC's income until April 1985. No consideration had been given to an increase.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C) asked Mr Hurd to make a statement about unfair anomalies in concessions for old people's homes.

Mr Hurd: There certainly are anomalies and we have been looking at them. But if you remove the existing concessions that is harsh and if you extend them then the remainder would have to pay a very high rate indeed.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Debate on EEC budget for 1984.

Tuesday: Proceedings on the Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) Bill.

Wednesday: Debates on Opposition motions on youth unemployment and on the care of the elderly.

Thursday: Proceedings on the Pension Commutation Bill. Merchant Shipping Bill, remaining stages. Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council Bill, second reading.

Friday: Debate on private Member's motion on the democratic rights and living standards of Londoners.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: **Monday:** Telecommunications Bill, committee, fourth day.

Tuesday: Telecommunications Bill, committee, fifth day.

Wednesday: Debate on industry.

Thursday: Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill, committee. Animal Health and Welfare Bill, report.

Friday: Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) (No 2) Bill, committee.

BT should buy British

HOUSE OF LORDS

The interests of British manufacturers of telecommunications equipment, which were of paramount importance, were fully covered by the Telecommunications Bill, **Lord Cockfield**, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said during discussion in the House of Lords an Opposition amendment which, **Lord Bruce of Donington** said, sought to provide assurances for manufacturers as well as consumers.

Lord Weinstock (C), said the amendment should be supported. There was nothing specified in the Bill about British firms which manufactured telecommunications equipment, he pointed out that BT in pursuit of its licence for cellular radio, placed the first orders for equipemt with the Nippon Electric Co and not with any British concern. The Racall company, also placed orders for equipment abroad.

The amendment was withdrawn but Lord Bruce indicated that the Opposition would seek at a later stage to come up with a definition which made clear the commitment to safeguard British manufacturers.

'Sea blind' Britain back on course

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Britain was beinning to recover from "sea blindness of misguided unconcern about maritime matters" from which it had been suffering, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, First Sea Lord, said yesterday.

He was speaking at a conference on Soviet maritime power organized in London by the Royal United Services Institute and the Hudson Institute of New York.

Naval forces could advance, withdraw, concentrate of disperse without violating frontiers or abandoning ground. "Maritime power can reach, with matchless, subtle facility, places which other forms of force cannot reach, touching nerves and stimulating responses."

The Russians had sustained a far more logical appreciation of those factors than had the West. The Soviets were striving to build naval power which went beyond their basic defensive requirements.

It was essential to distinguish between the capability and the intentions of a possibly enemy. "Whatever moderate and reasonable intentions we may read into out potential enemy, it is essential to look beyond at the capability that can be wielded, for it is this that we must not fail.

Sir John said: "Capabilities bequeath options and for the Soviet Navy the options increasingly are worldwide."

It was important for the West to avoid being too preoccupied, almost to the exclusion of anything else, by the possibility of total war in a direct confrontation between Nato and the Warsaw Pact, which was unlikely to occur.

Aids case

The thirty-seventh confirmed case in Britain of the disease Aids which destroys the body's immunity to other illnesses, has been diagnosed in a man, aged 32, living in Brighton.

Chichester stars

Sir Alec Guinness, Joan Plowright, Maggie Smith, and Paul Eddington will be appearing at the Chichester Festival Theatre which opens its 1984 season on May 2.

London welcome: The Lord Mayor of London, Dame Mary Donaldson, greeting the Queen at All Hallows-by-the-Tower in London yesterday before the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service of the Britsh Leprosy Relief Association.

Daily Mail 'distortion' rejected

A report in the *Daily Mail* of an interview with two Russian guests of the Mothers for Peace orgaization was hostile and unlikely to be welcome to the organization, but was nevertheless substantially accurate, the Press Council said yesterday.

The council rejected a complaint by Mothers for Preace that an article by John Passmore and the headline "Kremlin's 'peace women' fluff their lines" distorted and misrepresented the interview.

The *Daily Mail* found no reason to correct or apologise for the story.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

The *Daily Mail* report of a group interview with some participants at a Mothers for Peace discussion week was hostile and unlikely to be welcome to the organization. It concentrated on a short passage from a substantial interview. The organizers would no doubt have preferred publicity to have been given to other aspects of the interview, but the report was substantially accurate and is supported by the transcript of a recording of the proceedings. The complaint against the *Daily Mail* is rejected.

Libel award for former MI5 agent

A former senior MI5 agent who played a leading role in uncovering Soviet spy Anthony Blunt and was then linked to spying for the Russians won substantial libel damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

Although not mentioned by name, Mr Arthur Martin could be identified by articles in the *Sunday Telegraph* and *Daily Telegraph*, his counsel, Mr Frank Gillibrand, said.

The first article, in the *Sunday Telegraph* in January last year, was headed "Blunt file reopened to probe role of former agent". It suggested that a former agent involved in the Blunt affair was under suspicion of being a Russian spy.

There was a report in the *Daily Telegraph* the next day and a third article in the *Daily Telegraph* at the end of January, which described the search of Mr Martin's home in Chelsea and the removal of documents.

Mr Gillibrand told Mr Justice Comyn that there was no truth in any of the allegations and the newspapers had agreed to pay undisclosed damages and costs.

PUBLIC SPENDING Defence slowdown ● Adult education cuts ● More cash for the prisons

White Paper projects public spending to match inflation

By Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

The "broadly stable" projections of spending unveiled yesterday by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Peter Rees, in the first public expenditure White Paper of this Parliament, show a gradual slowdown in the growth of public spending over the next three years – in line with the modest fall in inflation forecast by the Treasury.

The White Paper projects a 5 per cent increase in public spending in 1984-85, to £126,353m, followed by increases of 4.5 per cent in 1985-86 and 3.5 per cent in 1986-87. The Treasury is assuming that prices throughout the economy will rise by 5 per cent during 1984-85, with inflation declining to 4 per cent during the next two years.

This would mean no real increase in public spending, for the first time since Mrs Margaret Thatcher took office. Despite repeated assertions in the past that the Government intended to curb public spending, the figures in this White Paper show that it has risen in real terms every year since 1979.

For 1983-84, the year ending next month, spending was at one stage expected to overshoot the target set only last spring by as much as £2,000m. The White Paper suggests that it will be only £700m above target, partly because the Treasury has not distributed £750m of its contingency reserve (about half the total) to spending departments.

This still implies that public spending will have risen by more than 21 per cent faster than inflation. This latest estimate for 1983-84 is about £8,000m higher than the projection for that year published in the Conservatives' first public spending White Paper in 1980.

However, public spending has accounted for a declining share of gross domestic product since 1982, when the economy began to recover from the depths of the recession. From a peak of 44 per cent it is projected to fall to 42 per cent in 1984-85. Only if the economy continues to grow by 3 per cent a year, however, will its share fall by 1986-87 to below the 40.5 per cent level inherited from Labour in 1979.

Spending in 1983-84: plans and outturn

Planning total for 1983-84 published in:		
March 1980	*	£112.4 bn
March 1981	*	£113.6 bn
March 1982		£120.7 bn
Feb 1983		£119.6 bn
Feb 1984		£120.3 bn

*Converted from volume to cash
Source: Cmnd 9143

The stable "planning total" in the white paper conceals big changes in individual programmes. The most important shifts are:

A Cumulative increase in defence spending of nearly 19 per cent over the next three years. For the first two years, spending (excluding Falklands costs) rises by 3 per cent more than inflation, in line with Britain's Nato commitment;

A cumulative decrease of nearly 40 per cent in spending on trade, industry, energy and employment. Much of this is a reflection of the planned decline in borrowing by nationalized industries. Their external finance, including government grants, is assumed to fall by £2,410m over the period, implying that they will have to finance an increasing share of their investment from either improvements in efficiency or higher prices. (As usual, this is one of the most dubious elements in the white paper.) Regional aid and other forms of industrial support are also projected to fall from £1,300m in 1983-84 to £1,000m in 1986-87;

Rise in public spending

Annual change in planning totals of public expenditure

	In cash terms %	In cost terms (after inflation)* %
1979-80	+17.0	+0.1
1980-81	+20.5	+1.5
1981-82	+13.0	+2.8
1982-83	+ 8.3	+1.6
1983-84 est	+ 6.1	+1.1
1984-85 plans	+ 5.0	0.0
1985-86 plans	+ 4.5	–
1986-87 plans	+ 3.5	–

*Adjusted for inflationas measured by the gdp deflator
Derived from Cmnd 9143

An increase of nearly 18 per cent, over the period, in social security hence more dependent on supplementary benefit;

A modest real increase in spending on health and personal social services,

Education, transport and housing, by contrast, are all to be cut in real terms The net result of all these changes is that spending on programmes is projected to increase by only 3.1 per cent in 1984-85, 3.8 per cent in 1985-86 and 2.8 per cent in 1986-87. However, the Treasury has built in a huge and increasing contingency reserve, rising from £2,750m in 1984-85 to £4,750m in 1986-87. If this were all to be allocated to programmes, the rate of increase in spending would rise to 5.3 per cent, 4.5 per cent 3.5 per cent.

Planned changes in the main spending programmes

Percent change between estimated outurn for 1983-84 and plans for

	1984-85 %	1986-87 %
Defence	+8.4	+18.7
Trade, industry energy and employment	−7.7	−39.8
Transport	−4.1	+ 2.9
Housing and other environmental services	−5.8	− 0.5
Law and order	+4.7	+13.2
Education and science	−2.3	+ 2.9
Health and personal social services	+5.0	+16.1
Social security	+5.3	+17.9

Derived from Cmnd 9143

But the planning total on which the Government concentrates is reduced by the projections for public sector asset sales – £1,900m in 1984-85 and £2,000m for each of the following years.

This practice (condemned by the Treasury select committee of MPs for understanding the true level of spending to be financed) reduces both the overall figures and the increase in spending in 1984-85 – the year for which this White Paper matters most. Figures for later years will be renegotiated in the next public expenditure round.

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Telecom sale, page 19

DEFENCE

Government moving towards defence expenditure 'plateau'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

For the first time since the Conservatives came to power in 1979, the Government is moving towards a period in which there will be a negligible real growth in defence spending.

The Government is committed to achieving a Nato target of three per cent growth annually in real terms until March 1986. On present plans, it will have achieved by then a real growth of 19.5 per cent since 1979, if spending on the Falklands is excluded, or 23 per cent if Falklands spending is included.

In the first year after abandonment of the Nato target – 1986-87 – the Government is aiming for a growth in defence spending, excluding the Falklands, of only 4 per cent in cash terms, bringing the figure for that year to £18.660m.

That is predicted to yield an increase of 1 per cent in real spending power, but that assumes that inflation will be running at only about 3 per cent that year.

It is clear that the defence budget could come under severe pressure if inflation is much above that level two years from now.

However, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that the Ministry of Defence had been basing its long-term planning on the assumption that spending would be on a plateau when the Nato growth commitment expired in 1986. There was no question, he said, of it leading to a big reexamination of defence commitment.

"We believe that on the present levels, notwithstanding the ending of the 3 per cent growth target, we shall be able to accommodate our basic commitments in central Europe, some measure of out-of-area commitment, and our obligations to all three Services".

The White Paper shows that spending on the Falkland Islands, including the cost of building the new airport and of replacing equipment lost in the conflict of 1982, will be running at £684m in 1984-85, £552m in 1985-86, and £450m in 1986-87.

It confirms the previously announced fact that defence spending in the coming financial year will be running at just over £17.000m, which is about £300 for every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom.

It also shows that reductions in manpower in the Armed Forces of up to 20,000 by 1986, which had been set as a target in June, 1981, will not be achieved. It now looks as though the reduction will be only about half that number, with small increases occurring this year and next.

The ministry, however, aims to reduce the number of its civilian employees from about 200,000 now to 170,000 by April, 1988. More than half that reduction will be achieved through a change of status for the Royal Ordnance Factories.



Laying of the matting that is intended to cover all of Port Stanley airfield.

Public Sector Capital Spending £m cash

Central and local govmnt:	1978-79 outturn	1979-80 outturn	1980-81 outturn	1981-82 outturn	1982-83 outturn	1983-84 est outturn	1984-85 plans
Goods and services							
Central and local govmnt:							
dwellings	2,101	2,395	2,302	1,943	2,204	2,212	2,227
other new construction	2,556	3,165	3,786	3,912	4,340	4,302	4,524
vehicles, plant, machinery	829	736	877	902	1,056	1,140	1,132
Defence:							
construction	46	205	283	271	395	456	528
equipment	1,779	2,211	2,905	3,445	3,800	4,554	5,200
Nationalized industs:							
construction	4,734	1,931	2,355	2,491	2,697	2,935	2,841
vehicles, plant, machinery		3,564	3,962	4,388	4,240	4,743	4,647
Total goods and services	11,845	14,207	16,450	17,352	18,732	20,342	21,099
Capital grants to priv sec	1,561	1,631	1,948	2,033	2,652	3,012	2,774
Total	13,406	15,838	18,398	19,385	21,384	23,354	23,873
Cost terms (base year 1982-83)	21,787	22,029	21,556	20,672	21,384	22,242	21,654

Main points from the White Paper

● The Government's revised plans for expenditure in 1984-85 total £126.4bn, the same as the provisional total for that year published in the last White Paper and confirmed in the Autumn Statement.

● On the assumption of 5 per inflation between 1983-84 and 1984-85, the level of public expenditure is expected to be broadly stable in cost terms between the two years.

● A provisional planning total of £132.1bn has been set for 1985-86 broadly the same as the figure in the last White Paper.

● For 1986-87 the provisional total is £136.7bn, a cash increase of about 3½ per cent on the preceding year.

● The main changes in the expenditure plans for 1984-85 compared with the last White Paper are increases for agricultural support (£0.4bn), local authority current expenditurre (£0.6bn), and social security (£1.3bn); and decreases in provision for defence (£0.3bn), housing (£0.5bn), and nationalized industries' external finance (£0.7bn). Receipts from special sales of assets are expected to increase by £0.4bn.

● Since the Autumn Statement the reserve for 1984-85 has been reduced by £250m. That results mainly from an increase in expected expenditure on some social security benefits, partially offset by a reduced requirement for the Youth Training Scheme. As announced in the Autumn Statement, to improve control the reseve will in future cover all contingencies, including estimating changes

● Capital expenditure in the public sector is planned to be about £23.9bn in 1984-85. In cost terms it has been at broadly the same level since 1978-79.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP

	1978/79	79/80	80/81	81/82	82/83	83/84*	84/85*
Total	40.5%	40.5%	42.5%	44%	43.5%	43%	42%
SPENDING ON GOODS AND SERVICES	23%	23%	24%	24%	24%	23.5%	22.5%

OTHER SPENDING (eg pensions, benefits, interests)
*Estimate

Planning total £m cash

	1982-83 outturn outturn	1983-84 est	1984-85 plans	1985-86 plans	1986-87 plans
Public expenditure programmes					
1 Central government	81,568	85,812	90,816	95,560	99,540
2 Local authorities	29,101	32,625	31,964	32,850	33,570
3 Certain public corporation's capital expenditure	679	405	458	390	340
4 Nationalized industries' ext finance	2,143	2,500	1,881	1,140	90
5 Other public corp's ext finance	374	387	383	390	390
6 Planned expend on programmes	113,865	121,728	125,503	130,330	133,930
7 Special sales of assets (net)	-488	-1,200	-1,900	-2,000	-2,000
8 Reserve	100	2,750	3,750		4,750
9 Planned expend on programmes, sales of assets and the Reserve	113,377	120,628	126,353	132,080	136,680
11 General allowance for shortfall	-300				
12 Planning total (outturn/est outturn)	113,377	120,328	126,353	132,080	136,680
13 % increase on previous year	8.3	6.1	5.0	4.5	3.5
Memorandum items					
Debt interest–net	5,946	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,500
–gross (not included above)	15,580	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500

Total public expenditure by progammme £m cash

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Defence	14,408	15,716	17,031	18,060	18,660
Overseas aid and other overseas services					
Overseas aid	984	1,063	1,125	1,180	1,200
Net payments to EC institutions	580	500	375	550	600
Other overseas services	600	731	783	810	830
Agric, fish, food and forestry	1,861	2,087	2,048	1,920	1,930
Trade, ind, energy and employmnt	5,791	6,080	5,609	4,700	3,560
Arts and libraries	616	624	599	620	640
Transport	4,395	4,560	4,372	4,690	4,690
Housing	2,640	2,760	2,496	2,610	2,680
Other environment servs	3,554	3,787	3,451	3,540	3,600
Law order and protective servs	4,174	4,681	4,901	5,130	5,300
Education and science	12,682	13,356	13,052	13,450	13,750
Health and personal soc servs	13,817	14,688	15,421	16,250	17,060
Social security	32,445	35,324	37,207	39,520	41,630
Other public services	1,631	1,666	1,768	1,870	1,900
Common services	1,560	950	1,105	1,180	1,280
Scotland	6,242	6,767	6,863	6,980	7,160
Wales	2,386	2,587	2,585	2,680	2,780
Northern Ireland	3,500	3,799	4,032	4,220	4,380
Local authority current expend not allocated to progs (England)		660	400		200
Adjustments					
Special sales of assets	-488	-1,200	-1,900	-2,000	-2,000
Reserve	100	2,750	3,750		4,750
General allowance for shortfall	-300				
Planning total	113,377	120,328	126,353	132,080	136,680

EDUCATION

Huge cut in school meals proposed

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A huge cut in school meals as well as signficant reductions in adult education and the youth service are proposed for the financial year beginning in April, 1984, in an education budget which shows less spending in real and cash terms.

However, government officials were at pains to point out yesterday that the 7 per cent cut in real terms between this year and next would probably be made up by the extra £660m it was giving to the local authorities to spend on which programmes they pleased. On the evidence of last year, they spent more than half of this sum on education.

The White Paper shows that school meals are being cut from £414m in 1983-84 to £257m in 1984-5, an attempt by the Government to persuade local authorities to save money by moving over to cafeteria systems and thereby reduce staff and other overheads.

Adult education is being reduced by £18m in the next financial year, but then goes up again in 1985 by £7m to £80, and the youth service is receving a similar cut, down £15m next year and then up again by £8m to £100m. Both these cuts will hit the Inner London Education Authority unduly because it spends much more than average on these two services.

Altogether spending on education drops by £300m next year, from £13,356m to £13,052m. But after that it is set to rise, reaching £13,750m in 1986-87. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, pointed out in a written answer in the House of Commons yesterday that next year the school population would fall by more than 2 per cent.

He also maintained that in real terms spending on education has increased by 1 per cent over the past five years and that this should be compared with a fall of about 12 per cent in the school population. It is this fact which enables officials to say that spending per pupil will rise in real terms.

This is not the case, however, in higher education. In this sector spending per student is set to fall. Although the universities are not being cut over the next three years, the White Paper says that "the cash available will require a measure of increased economy if standards are to be maintained".

It adds: "Provision per student will in any case be reduced as a result of increased admissions during the years of peak demand." Academic jobs have already been lost in the universities through early retirement and it is now the turn of the polytechnics and institutes of higher education to find compulsory redundancies.

It was made clear yesterday that 500 lecturers in the public sector would have to be made redundant if they did not go voluntarily. The Government is looking for a loss of 3,000 jobs in this sector between 1983 and 1985. Each redundancy is expected to cost £8,000, to be taken out of the £20m put aside

SOCIAL SECURITY

Higher pensions drive up payments

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Social security spending, which makes up almost 30 per cent of central government expenditure, is set to rise by £6.3bn to £41.6bn over the next three years, on the figures in yesterday's White Paper.

The driving forces are chiefly a £2.9bn rise to £17.6bn in retirement pensions; a continuing rise in unemployment benefit from £1.52bn to £1.7bn; and an increase in supplementary benefit – the "safety net" – from almost £5.7bn to £6.9bn.

The increases assume that most benefits will rise in line with prices, with inflation assumed to rise by 5.5 per cent this year, and by 4.5 per cent and 4 per cent in the following years.

Unemployment, excluding school leavers is assumed to average 2.85 million throughout the period – a variation of 100,000 either way would affect spending by about £185m.

The White Paper shows increased dependence by the unemployed on supplementary benefit – the result of more claims by long-term numbers of school and college leavers who have never found work and so have no national insurance contribution record, and the end of earnings related supplements to unemployment benefit.

Elderly people, however, are becoming less dependent on supplementary benefit, in part because more have occupational pensions and the earnings related scheme is beginning to come into effect.

LAW AND ORDER

£23m more for prison plans

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Capital spending on prisons will rise from £57m this year to about £80m in 1985-6 to pay for expansion plans announced by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

The programme, which seeks to end overcrowding by the close of the decade, includes four new prisons now being built and a further six on the drawing board, giving 3,196 extra places by the end of 1986-7.

The pay, overtime and allowances of 4,012 extra prison officers and 429 other staff being recruited are the biggest factor in a rise in current expenditure from £495m this year to £590m in 1986-7.

A jump in capital spending on the police from £19m this year to £31m next year and £40m in 1985-6 owes much to a change in radio frequencies, entailing a speed-up in telecommunications re-equipment. The change was agreed at an international conference on frequencies in 1979.

Current expenditure on police is due to rise from £44m to £50m by 1986-7. Plans assume that police strength in England and Wales of 121,003 in March 1983 will reach 122,500 by the end of 1986.

A rise in spending on magistrates' court services from £29m this year to £40m in 1984-5 includes costs of starting seven buildings in 1984-5 and a projected 12 in 1985-86.

The cost of computerizing magistrates' court processes is also included. Fifty out of 611 petty session divisions were using computerized systems by the end of 1982-3;

A rise in capital expenditure by the Lord Chancellor's Department on court services by £23m this year to £50m in 1985-6 provides for a forecast increase from the present 67,800 committals a year for trial to 84,000 in 1986-7.

ENERGY

Coal continues to drain state funds

By David Young

The continuing drain on government funds by the National Coal Board and the increasing contributions by the electricity and gas industries are highlighted in the White Paper.

It shows that the coal industry's external finance limit (EFL) – which includes redunancy payment provisions as well as support for the concessionary coal scheme for miners – in 1984-85 is £1.103m.

Figures published yesterday show that provision by the Government for the redundancy scheme and concessionary coal scheme, other than the contribution paid by the EEC, is expected to rise from the £243m included in the 1984-85 EFL, to £270m in 1985-86 and £290m in 1986-87.

The extent of the contributions expected from the gas and electricity industries is shown by the projected total EFLs of the nationalized industries within the Department of Energy. Present government support of £259m in 1985 will change to a contribution of £660m in 1985-86 and to £1,420m in 1986-87.

ENVIRONMENT

Cuts in farming services

By Hugh Clayton

The Government wants to cut spending on farming, forestry and a wide range of environmental services which range from care of historic monuments to inland waterways. The figures for agriculture are complicated by the fact that some money is eventually repaid from EEC funds.

Spending on farming, fisheries, the grocery industry and forestry is planned to drop from £2.09bn in the present financial year to £1,930bn in 1986-7.

Although manpower is to increase in some Government agencies, there will also be widespread cuts.

SHIPBUILDING AND STEEL

Cash limits reflect differing fortunes

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's two main nationalized manufacturing industries, steel and shipbuilding, are given forecast external financing limits (EFLs) for 1984-85 totalling £450m, with the public spending plans highlighting the differing fortunes of the two corporations.

British Shipbuilders is continuing to be hit by the badly depressed state of world demand for new ships and shows little chance of being able to support itself in the near future. British Steel, however, is slowly emerging from its past problems and a trading profit within the next two years looks likely.

British Shipbuilders, at the centre of the present row over the disposal of the Scott Lithgow yard, is expected to overshoot significantly its £180 EFL for 1983-84.

The British Steel Corporation envisages a loss in the present year of £181m and its present corporate plan forecasts a profit after interest in the coming year

HEALTH

Real spending to rise 10%

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Spending on the National Health Service will rise by about £2.4bn over the next three years, to more than £17bn.

That provides for real increases of about 1 per cent on hospital and community services, roughly double the long term growth assumption of 0.5 per cent announced last year.

The White Paper, however, appears to foreshadow government attempts to control demand-led family practitioner services, which are not cash limited, and which will exceed their Budget by about £100m this year.

The Department of Health is studying a report by the management consultants Binder Hamlyn on controlling family doctors' spending.

Cash limits have been ruled out as impractical, but the department is considering moves to cut medical students numbers, encourage GPs to retire at 65, and control more strictly the numbers of overseas doctors in a attempt to limit the increase in family doctors.

Capital spendig will rise by about £50m next year, but by £110m over the three years to 1986-87, with capital spending on family doctors declining from £3m next year to below £1m during 1985-87.

PRIVATIZATION

Forecast income revised sharply upwards

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

The Government's forecasts for the proceeds from privatization have again been revised sharply upwards. The sale of state-owned industry assets is now expected to raise £5,900m over the next three years – roughly double what the Treasury has raised from this source since Mrs Margaret Thatcher took office in 1979.

Although the projection for the coming financial year has been left unchanged at £1900m, the figure for 1985/6 has been quadrupled from £500m to £2,000m. The Treasury expects to raise another £2,000m the following year as well, for which no previous forecasts have been made.

The most the Treasury has raised in a single year before from asset sales is the £1,200m it expects to obtain in the present financial year. The bulk of that money – about £1,100 – has come from the sale of shares in three companies, BP, Britoil and Cable & Wireless.

The higher figures for future years reflect the fact that the Government is now stepping up both the scale and tempo of its denationalization programme.

Ministers from the Treasury and the main sponsoring departments for the nationalized industries agreed a few weeks ago on a timetable for a whole range of future privatization measures, which will take them right up to the next election and could raise as much as £10,000m.

The White Paper confirms that the Government is hoping to complete three substantial stock market flotations in the next 12 to 18 months.

The first of these is likely to be the sale of Enteprise Oil, a new company that the Government has set up to own the North Sea oil assets of the British Gas Corporation. This is scheduled to take place in the early summer and should raise an estimated £400m, according to stock market analysts.

Then in October the Government is due to offer shares in British Telecom in what will be the biggest flotation of its kind ever undertaken. The Government plans to sell half the corporation to the public, which most experts believe should raise about £4,000m.

Angola and South Africa set up commission to monitor border ceasefire

From Michael Hornsby, Lusaka

Angola and South Africa announced joint steps here yesterday to establish and effective ceasefire in the border war and, it is hoped, to open the way for a wider peace settlement in the region and independence for Namibia.

The announcement was made after a historic trilateral conference between the two ideologically hostile southern African states and the United States, which acted as mediator. The high powered South African and Angolan negotiating teams were led respectively by Mr Pik Botha, the South African foreign Minister, and Lieutenant-Colonel Alexandre Rodrigues, the Angolan interior Minister.

Dr Chester Crocker, the assistant secretary of State for African Affairs, headed the American delegation.

A communique described the meeting as "an important and constructive step towards peaceful resolution of the problems of the region, including the question of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435".

Resolution 435 is the internationally-accepted basis for the granting of independence to Namibia, a pre-First World War German colony which South Africa has occupied for 67 years. Since 1966 South Africa's as been regarded as illegal by the UN.

President Kaunda of Zambia opened the meeting, saying that "a historic opportunity now exists to make progress". He also hosted a banquet for the participants on Wednesday night.

The main achievement of the conference is the setting up of a joint Angolan-South African commission "to monitor the disengagement progress in southern Angola and to detect, investigate and report any alleged violations of the commitments of the parties".

The first meeting of the joint commission took place yesterday, and further meetings are to be held "in other mutually agreed locations at the convenience of the parties".

The Communiqué said that "a small number of American representatives could participate in the activities of the joint commission at the request of the parties". A diplomatic source told *The Times* that the US involvement would be only symbolic.

The creation of the commission follows on the announcement on January 31 by Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, that South African troops had begun disengaging from southern Angola as the first step towards a hoped-for permanent ceasefire in the region.

This, he said, was being done on the understanding, conveyed via the Americans, that neither Angola nor Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organization) guerrillas would take military advantage of the situation.

Swapo has been fighting for the last 17 years for the independence of Namibia, and has operated from bases in southern Angola since the mid-1970s, when Portuguese colonial rule in Angola ended. In the past few years fighting across the Namibian-Angolan border has steadily intensified.

The Lusaka communiqué said that the three parties to the converence saw the task of the commission in the weeks ahead as being "to facilitate the successful completion of the disengagement process and to establish an effective cessation of hostilities."

Swapo itself was not represented at the meeting, but it is presumed that Angola was speaking for the organization, which has so far observed the terms the South African disengagement.

● LONDON: Mr Sam Nujoma, leader of Swapo, held talks at the Foreign Office with Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State, on Namibian independence issues yesterday (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Sources emphasized that the visit by Mr Nujoma had long been planned as part of a European tour.

Iranians launch massive assault

Bahrain (Reuter) – Iran and Iraq were locked in heavy ground fighting yesterday after Iranian forces launched an offensive in the central sector of the Gulf war front, prompting Iraq to step up attacks on shipping in the Gulf.

Shortly after Tehran announced the start of the offensive, about 110 miles east of Baghdad, Iraq said it had destroyed seven "enemy naval targets" in a convoy at the head of the Gulf.

The two actions, which follow air and shelling bombardments of towns on both sides and renewed Iranian threats to blockade the Gulf, brought the 40-month-old conflict between the two Muslim neighbours to a new and dangerous phase.

Tehran radio, monitored by the BBC, said Iranian troops launched a big offensive last night and within 11 hours had broken through Iraq's frontline. It said 1,200 Iraqis had been killed or wounded.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi forces had contained the attack and destroyed part of the attacking Iranian force in a counter-offensive.

Tehran radio said the offensive centred south of the Iranian border town of Mehran and north-east of the Iraqi city of Kut.

The national news agency Irna said Iranian troops had captured an Iraqi supply route and several strategic heights. A military communique quoted by Tehran radio said the Fourth Iraqi Border Guard Brigade was destroyed, Iraq's 47th Infantry Battalion headquarters had also been destroyed, it said.

Iran gave no indication of the number of troops involved in the fighting or what it called the offensive "pre-determined objectives".

But diplomats in Baghdad recently said reports from Tehran indicated about 500,000 Iranian troops had been sent to the war fronts in preparation for an offensive after several months of stagnation in the ground fighting.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said five enemy naval targets had been destroyed in naval and air attacks in the Khor Musa area at the head ofthe Gulf. Two other targets in the same convoy trying to enter the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini had been destroyed by Iraqi-laid mines. He did not identify the ships, but said all Iraqi gunboats and aircraft retured safely to base.

Bandar Khomeini is the site of a joint Japanese-Iranian petrochemical project. Work on the 80 per cent complete complex was halted in 1981 after a series of Iraqi bomb attacks.

In Tokyo, the Japanese partner said it had cancelled the departure from Japan of a second batch of workers following another Iraqi raid on the site last Sunday.



Triple assault: Druze gunmen burst into a Phalangist stronghold in Damour in the attack which wrested two towns from Lebanese government forces.

Reagan supports UN force for Beirut

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

With American policy in Lebanon in collapse, the Reagan Administration is throwing strong support behind the creation of a United Nations peacekeeping force in the Beirut area, while trying to reassure its Middle East allies that it is still able to influence events in the region.

President Reagan has given congress formal notice that most of the American Marine contingent in Beirut will be removed to ships offshore "within 30 days" an eight-page report to congress prepared by the Pentagon and State Department asserted that the Marines had "become a target in an area that is no longer under Government control."

The report added that an unspecified number of Marines would "remain on the ground for the protection of our remaining personnel."

The role of the UN is central to the immediate plans of the Reagan Administration. The mood is grim. "If a moderate government were overthrown because it had the courage to turn in the direction peace, imagine the consequences for the future," President Reagan said.

Administration officials insist that there is no question of the US withdrawing support for President Amin Gemayel if – against American advice – he abrogates the Lebanese – Israeli troop withdrawal accord of May 17 last year, as demanded by the Syrians.

That was emphasized by Mr Reagan on Wednesday night. Asked whether the US Would alter its backing for President Gemayel if the accord has broken, he replied: "No. It would not change our position that as long as there is a chance for peace there we are going to keep striving."

The assertion of Mr George Shiltz, the Secretary of State, that "those who would dispense with this agreement must bear the responsibility to find alternative formulas for Israeli withdrawal" was a statement of both Government and personal commitment to the accord – he helped mediate.

Administration officials said President Gemayel had accepted an eight-point Saudi Arabian proposal for achieving a settlement in Lebanon that would include scrapping the Israeli-Lebanese accord on troop withdrawals. It was described as "a statement of principles rather than a plan of action."

15,000 flee across the Awali to safety

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv

A flight of panic-stricken Lebanese to the Israeli-occupied sector of their embattled country continued yesterday for the third day. Reports from Sidon said the fugitives began coming late on Tuesday afternoon after Druze forces had reached the Damour area south of Beirut.

By midday yesterday they numbered 15,000. They included about 500 soldiers in the camouflaged uniforms of the Fourth Brigade of the regular Lebanese Army.

The Israelis kept the checkpoint at the Awali river open around the clock to receive the refugees.

Civilian families arriving in hundreds of cars but with practically no luggage were permitted to drive through freely. The soldiers, unshaven and hungry, were disarmed at the approach by Phalangist militiamen and later searched by Israeli soldiers. They arrived on foot, hitchhiked or drove in stolen cars.

Reporters in Sidon said the soldiers appeared deeply ashamed and for the most part refused to talk of their experiences, but it seemed there had been no battle to speak of. Some attributed their debacle to a breakdown in communications with higher echelons.

The civilians, mostly Christians, were taken in by relatives and the Israelis arranged accommodation for the others in schools and public buildings. Warm food and blankets were provided.

Meanwhile, the Army command here confirmed yesterday that Israeli forces were keeping up their patrols norht of the Awali river line to make sure Palestinian guerrillas do not return ato areas purged in the 1982 invasion and evacuated by the Israelis last year.

A patrol yesterday reached Ras el Saadit, close to the Damour river bridge about eight miles north of the Israeli line. This followed reports that Palestinina guerrillas has been among the Shia and Druze forces operating in the area.

Canberra defends kangaroo killing

Melbourne – Mr Barry Cohen, Australia's Minister for the Environment, has attacked Britain and the US for opposing Australia's culling of kangaroos (Tony Dubondin writes). Their stand was hypocritical and ill-informed, he said.

The number of kangaroos which can be killed this year has been reduced by one million to about two million because of the effects of last year's drought, Mr Cohen said.

Attacking some conservation groups, particularly in Britain and the US, Mr Cohen said they gave the impression "that we are a bunch of bloodthirsty animals going around biting the heads off kangaroos". He accused them of being "dishonest, deceitful and in some cases positively evil".

Vicar to die for wife's murder

Colombo – The Rev Matthew Peiris, aged 65, Vicar of the fashionable Anglican Church of St Paul's in Colombo, and a former secretary, 37-year-old Mrs Dalrene Imgram, have been sentenced to death for the murder of their married partners.

Mr Peiris, who began his career as curate at St Francis of Assisi in Welwyn Garden City, made the sign of the cross and said: "I am innocent, I place my case in the hands of God." Mrs Ingram also said she was innocent.

12 hurt in US nuclear test

Las Vegas (Reuter) – At least 12 workers were injured, one critically, when the earth collapsed after a nuclear blast at a US underground test site in the Nevada desert.

There was no escape of radiation and the workers were not exposed to radiation, Department of Energy official said. The injuries were believed to be mostly fractures and bruises.

Daddy's girl



Patti Davis, actress daughter of President Reagan, who plays her first big screen role in the new Blake Edwards film "Curse of the Pink Panther", which is released in London today.

Morocco trials

Rabat (AP) – More than 120 leftist students and university lecturers went on trial in Rabat, Sale and Khouribga, charged with inciting food riots that disrupted Moroccan cities last month.

Lima blackout

Lima (AP) – Sendero Luminoso guerrillas blew up three electricity pylons, blacking out parts of Lima for the fourth time in 18 months. They also attacked a water plant outside the capital.

Nile shooting

Khartum (Reuter) – Fifteen people were injured when gunmen attacked four barges under tow by a Nile steamer carrying 180 people in southern Sudan, the state-owned newspaper *Al-Ayam* said.

Miners trapped

Giesenkirchen, West Germany (AP) – Rescuers pulled five trapped miners from a collapsed shaft in a coal mine in this Ruhr industrial city. Five other miners are missing.

University shut

Lusaka (AP) – The Zambian Government closed the University of Zambia indefinitely and expelled nearly 3,000 students damaged cars and injured several people.

Fleet reinforced

Singapore, – The Soviet Navy has reinforced its Pacific fleet with the Kiev-class aircraft carrier, Novorossiysk which has passed through the Singapore strait.

Lorry blockade

Lyons (AP) – Alpine highways from France to Italy were blocked by lorry drivers yesterday, leaving thousands of vehicles stranded on both sides of the border. The blockade by French drivers was a protest at a strike by French and Italian customs officers.

Drug abuse soars

France bans sale of solvent

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France has decided to ban the sale of trichlorethylene solvent to people under 18 as part of its campaign to tackle the ever-rising tide of drug abuse and addiction. About 20 young people are known to have died last year as a direct result of "sniffing" solvents and glue.

M Joseph Franceschi, Minister for Public Security, told Wednesday's cabinet meeting that a record 190 people died in France last year officially due to drug abuse, 16 per cent more than in the previous year, and nearly double the number five years earlier. But the real figure was probably three or four times higher, he added.

The quantity of drugs seized by police and customs last year broke all records: 168 kilos of heroin were seized, up to 70 per cent up on the previous year, and 222 kilos of cocaine, nearly three times as much as in 1982, and a hundred times more than 1976.

The retail value of the total drugs haul including 28 tons of cannabis, had been estimated at 7 billion francs (£580m), but some put the value ten times higher, M Franceschi said.

More than 26,000 people were arrested last year for drug offences, 20 per cent more than in 1982. They included 2,735 traffickers, three times the number in the previous year. Eight out of every 10 traffickers are foreigners, mostly Chinese and North African Arabs; eight out of 10 users are French.

A big increase in the number of police dealing with drug offences is undoubtedly in part responsible for the dramatic increase in drug abuse statistics. But it is also true that more young people are turning to drugs. Eighty per cent of drug addicts are between 15 and 25, and they are getting younger.

As might be expected, Paris is the centre of the illicit drug trade. "One of France's few flourishing industries", as one newspaper described it. The Marmottan Medical Centre for treating drug addicts claims in its latest annual report that you can now find a dealer within 500 yards of your home, wherever you live in Paris.

"There is a profusion of cheap heroin in Paris, and each of the rival drug trafficking gangs – Marseillais, Tunisians, Asiatics, Yugoslavs, Israelis and French commercial travellers of the Golden Triangle – try to ouldo one another."

The report mentions Belleville, Montmartre, the Gare de Lyons, and the Porte de Vanve as the best-known drug-trafficking areas. As for the so-called "Parisian crown", the poor council house-dominated suburbs that surround the city, "it is just like the pavements in Manila: children prostitute themselves to pay for their drugs", the report says.

The police estimate that 50 per cent of petty crime is carried out by drug addicts needing money to pay for their fixes.

Inquiry into mind control demanded

From John Best Ottawa

Evidence that the Canadian Government was involved in mind-control experiments in the 1950s and 1960s has produced demands for a full public inquiry.

Nine Canadians who were unsuspecting guinea pigs in the experiments are already suing the US Government for $C1m (£565,000) each because of the CIA's involvement. The Canadian Government is supporting those actions.

Recently, however, newspaper *Vancouver province* reported that it had obtained documents showing that the Canadian Government had poured $C500,000 between 1950 and 1964 into the Montreal Psychiatric Institute, where the experiments were conducted. The CIA gave $C64,000 to the institute between 1957 and 1961.

The newspaper said that the documents, obtained under Canada's Freedom-of-Information Law, show that the Government knew that patients were sometimes put to sleep for several weeks, and were given electric shocks to the brain to study the effects of memory loss.

In other tests, taped messages were played to patients for up to 16 hours a day, in some instances for 10 consecutive days. Some patients faced the tapes for 34 months.

Patients whose brains resisted such treatment were forced into artificial comas with drugs, or their resistance was lowered by sensory deprivation.

The Church of Scientology in Toronto has now called on the Federal Government to launch a parliamentary inquiry into "the extent to which 'mind control' and similar-type experiments have gone on across Canada".

The church made public documents which showed that the experiments came under headings such as "Research into the psychological factors causing the human mind to accept certain political beliefs".

Red Brigade boasts it killed Hunt

From Peter Nichols Rome

Accused terrorists from the hard-line wing of the Red Brigades claimed responsibility yesterday, during court proceedings in Genoa, for the murder on Wednesday night in Rome of Mr Leamon Hunt, head of the support office here for the multinational force in Sinai.

Mr Hunt aged 57, a former US diplomat, was being driven home in a bullet-proof car.

A statement from the American Embassy here pointed out that, through a tragic irony, the attack struck at an organization which had succeeded in almost two years of existence in ensuring peace in a large part of the Middle East.

Downing St visit by Husain

By Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

King Husain of Jordan flew into London for talks on Lebanon with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street last night. Their discussions, which were also attended by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, included an account by the King of his meeting with President Reagan in Washington earlier this week.

Lebanon and the future of its government were also high on the agenda of talks which Sir Geoffrey had with Mr Chedi Klibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League, earlier in the day.

Mt Klibi, who will call on Mrs Thatcher today, is paying a visit which should have taken place last November

March of deserts unstoppable

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

Very little progress has been made in reversing the spread of the world's deserts since the first world conference on desertification was held in Nairobi in 1977, a UN official said yesterday.

Mr Gaafar Karrar, a Sudanese expert who heads the desertification unit of the Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Programme said: "The goal of arresting the spread of the deserts by the year 2000 is no longer feasible." This goal was set at the 1977 conference.

But a reassessment of the areas threatened by desertification now indicates that 135 million people live in areas severely affected – not 57 million as estimated in 1977. Fifteen million acres are still being reduced to desert-like conditions every year through overpopulation, overgrazing and lack of care for the environment. Another 52 million acres are being reduced to "zero productivity" each year.

If the present march of desertification continues", Mr Karrar said, "The situation will become a global catastrophe by the year 2000. We could lose a third of our existing arable land."

He said this had wide implications: for instance, low land productivity tended to force villagers into the towns, causing food shortages which could lead to riots and other unrest.

It was urgent for every country, especially in the Third World, to prepare a plan of action against the further spread of the desert and to seek international assistance to deal with it.

Treurnicht party's slim victory

From Our Correspondent Cape Town

Two by-election results announced yesterday provide interesting pointers to the white political mood in South Africa as the country prepares to introduce a new constitution.

The ruling Nationalist Party has lost the ultra-conservative Transvaal bushveld constituency of Soutpansberg to the breakaway Conservative Party led by Dr Andries Treurnicht. The CP majority was a bare 497 votes.

In the English-speaking Natal constituency of Pinetown the Liberal opposition group, the Progressive Federal Party, the official Opposition, held its ground against the small Natal-based New Republic Party, which now seems destined to fade rom the scene. The PFP retained the seat by 880 votes.

Political analysts say that the results are complementary rather than contradictory and should encourage the Both administration to quicken the pace of eform. Although the National Party lost a seat to its rightist opponents in Soutpansberg, the narrow margin of the Conservative win shows that the right is not strong enough to put a brake on any reformist initiatives which the Nationalist Government may care to introduce.

Pinetown, held by the strongly reformist PFP, showed a continuing willingness by whites to move a great deal faster in reform than the Government has so far. The state of the parties in the 178 member parliament is: National Party, 125; Progressive Federal Party, 27; Conservatives, 18; New Republic Party, 8.

Tutu defies Botha on church role

Johannesburg (AFP) – The head of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Desmond Tutu, has denied allegations by a government commission that the council is influenced by foreign doctrines.

The commission, led by Justice D. F. Eloff, told Parliament yesterday that the council had increasingly identified itself with the "black liberation struggle" and had opted for a "revolutionary, rather an evolutionary, process of change in South Africa".

Appointed in 1981 by Mr P. W. Botha the Prime Minister, the commission recommended that the council subjected to the 1978 Fund-Raising Act, a move that would bring its finances and activities under close government scrutiny.

At a press conference Bishop Tutu said: "No secular authority, not even the government of the land, had any authority to sit in judgment on the churches about how to fulfil its God-given mandate to work for the extension of God's kingdom of justice, peace, reconciliation and compassion."

The bishop challenged the Government to charge the council in court if it had broken any laws by aiding political prisoners and their families.

Church moves Solidarity priest out of Warsaw

From Our Correspondent, Warsaw

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Primate of Poland, confirmed that he had ordered the transfer to a remote rural parish of Father Mieczyslaw Nowak, an outspoken pro-Solidarity priest.

Before leaving on a visit to Brazil and Argentina Cardinal Glemp called the transfer an "internal church matter" adding that he had also spoken to another militant priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko.

Father Nowak has been transferred on short notice from St Joseph's church in the Warsaw working class suburb of Usrus, the site of a tractor factory that has been a big Solidarity stronghold, to become the senior priest at Leki Koscielne, a village about 65 milles west of Warsaw.

According to church sources, the primate ordered the transfer to protect the priest from further questioning by the authorities about his links with the banned Solidarity trade union.

On Wednesday Father Nowak was questioned for nearly four hours at Warsaw police headquarters, where he was presented with transcripts of his sermons from monthly pro-Solidarity "masses for the fatherland" at the Ursus church which have regularity drawn thousands of worshippers. Both Father Nowak and Father Popieluszko are among a group of priests who are being investigated on charges of abusing religious freedom in sermons attacking the Communist regime.

● Hunger strike: Thirteen jailed Solidarity activists have gone on hunger strike, the fourth such protest now going on in Poland (Reuter reports).



Airport welcome: Dr Castro is greeted by Señor Felipe González at Madrid. Later, he and Señor Daniel Ortega, the Nicaraguan leader, had lunch with the Prime Minister.

Agca 'told Pope of plot'

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

The Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca, serving a life sentence in Rome for attempting to kill the pope in May, 1981, gave the Pope full details of the plot when the two met in Agca's cell on December 27 last year, the Turkish Daily *Hurriyet* claimed yesterday.

Publishing a transcript of the filmed conversation, the paper said it got hold of the film, of which the only two copies were kept in the state archives of Italy and the Vatican, through a mysterious Italian who contacted its Rome correspondent a month after the meeting.

As the film was without sound, the conversation was deciphered by lip-reading experts from Rome's school for deaf and dumb, *Hurriyet* said. However, a crucial two-minute sequence had been clipped from the film recording Mr Agca's answer to the Pope's question "who was the one that wanted me destroyed? Who sent you to St Peter's Square?"

In an earlier sequence, the Pope remarked "I believe what you have told me so far, but how did you do it? I want to know for myself". Agca's answer was lost because his lips were behind the Pope's ear during the whispered conversation.

Butterships in the dock

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

"Butterships" the floating duty-free shops off the German coast where Germans in their thousands stock up with cheap drink, cigarettes, perfume and of course butter, will soon have to dock. The European Court in Luxemburg has ruled that they are illegal and contrary to the rules of the European Community.

The court said that the ships do not actually go anywhere. They simply cruise up and down the North Sea and Baltic coasts while the passengers fill their shopping bags. They therefore were only symbolically going outside the tariff zone.

Germany's butterfleet is considerable, and some 15,000 people are said to be employed by the business, bringing great profits to Schleswig-Holstein. But even Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, former Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein and now Minister of Finance, cannot see any further loophole

If the ships were forced to drop anchor in port in another country, the resulting extra costs would outweigh the profits from duty free sales.

There are no firm statistics, but the loss in tax revenue to the German Treasury is said to amount to DM250m (£64m) a year. Shops along the North Sea coast are said to suffer from the competition.

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Gromyko lines up against Ustinov in the Soviet leadership race

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There were reports yesterday in Moscow that Mr Andrei Gromyko or Marshal Dmitry Ustinov might become Soviet President instead of Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr Cherneko, aged 72, was elected party leader by the Central Committee on Monday, but the post of President remains vacant. Like Mr Brezhnev before him, Mr Chernenko's chances of becoming head of state as well as party leader would depend on his political effectiveness over the next few weeks.

The head of state is formally elected by the Supreme Soviet, and is chairman of its presidium. Elections to a new Supreme Soviet will convene later in March, possibly preceded by a Central Committee Plenum.

Mr Andropov became Soviet President last June, after eight months in power, but it took Mr Brezhnev 13 years to combine the two posts. Mr Brezhnev initially ruled as part of a collective leadership, and there was speculation this week that Mr Chernenko might revert to the same pattern.

Mr Chenenko is the oldest man to become party leader, and although he received foreign leaders as the Kremlin's top man this week there are doubts about both his health and his political strength. His rise was resisted in the Politburo by younger leaders such as Mr Michail Gorbachov, aged 52, and Mr Grigoriy Romanov, aged 61. Both were shown by Soviet television in prominent positions next to Mr Chernenko during the lying in state and funeral ceremonies for Mr Andropov on Tuesday, suggesting that Mr Gorbachov is the heir apparent.

It was said yesterday that as an apparent sign of his informal staus as number two, Mr Gorbachov had made a speech at Monday's Central Committee meeting which elected Mr Chernenko, although the text of Mr Gorbachov's remarks has not yet been released.

It was being said that since the younger generation was still biding its time, the presidency might go to Marshal Ustinov, the 75-year-old Defence Minister, or the Foreign Minister, 74-year-old Mr Gromyko. Marshal Ustinov would be replaced as Defence Minister by Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the chief of staff, who came to public prominence last autumn after the Korean airliner disaster.

Mr Gromyko, Foreign Minister since 1957, could relinquish the post to his deputy, Mr Georgy Kornienko.

Mr Vasily Kuznetsov, the vice-president, is the acting head of state, but he is 83.

Ordinary Russians are waiting to see if the Chernenko family will now come to the fore. Mr Andropov kept his family in the backgroung, and until this week it was not even known if his wife was alive. The Brezhnev family, by contrast, was very well known and the subject of much Moscow gossip.

The first occasion for Mrs Chernenko to appear – assuming such a person exists – would be the ball for Moscow diplomatic wives on International Women's Day on March 7, an occasion presided over by Mrs Gromyko last year in place of the invisible Mrs Andropov.

The Soviet press announced yesterday that a woman machine minder in a ball-bearing factory would stand in the late Mr Andropov's constituency in the Supreme Soviet election on March 4. Mr Andropov had been nominated for the Proletarsky district of Moscow, and the Soviet media staged a massive campaign as he lay dying designed to give the impression that he was alive and well and a viable candidate, even issuing statements in his name.

Warm greetings from Ceausescu

● BUCHAREST: In an unusually effusive message, President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania cabled cordial congratulations and "warmest wishes of success" to Mr Chernenko (AP reports).

"I wish you, dear Comrade Chernenko, much health and happiness . . . and success in carrying out your mission of high responsibility", the telegram said. It also expressed the conviction that bilateral friendship would develop in future.

Romanian sources disclosed that Mr Chernenko, who from 1948 to 1956 headed the Communist Party's propaganda section in Soviet Moldavia, bordering north-eastern Romania, had been Bucharest's favourite to succeed Mr Brezhnev in 1982.

Under the leadership of Mr Andropov relations between the two Warsaw Pact allies had cooled, Western diplomats said.

Romanian television was the only Soviet block service not to provide live coverage of Mr Andropov's funeral.

Soviet Moldavia, formerly Bessarabia, belonged to Romania until 1940, when it was annexed by Moscow. The province has been a bone of contention between the two countries for the past 200 years.

Moscow hints at revival of détente

From Our Own Correspondent Moscow

As the last trickle of world leaders left Moscow yesterday, diplomats summed up Mr Chernenko's meetings this week by saying he had signalled a return to détente with the West while leaving China out in the cold and showing no interest in an initiative on Afghanistan.

Mr Chernenko saw Vice-President Bush, Mrs Thatcher, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany and M Pierre Mouroy, the Prime Minister of France as well as Mr Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.

He struck them all as a direct and practical man who avoided reference to past recriminations. Mr Trudeau said before leaving Moscow that the "megaphones had been lowered". Mr Chernenko had made only two conditions for resumption of East-West talks: they should be "as between equals", and they must not amount to "dialogue for the sake of dialogue".

Mr Chernenko made no overtures to China however, in contrast to Mr Andropov, who at Brezhnev's funeral in 1982 made a point of giving a warm welcome to Mr Huang Hua, the then Chinese Foreign Minister. Mr Chernenko did not receive Mr Wan Li, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, who was the most senior Chinese official to come to Moscow since the early 1960s.

Mr Wan saw Mr Geidar Aliyev, who is a Politburo member and Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Wan deliberately referred to Mr Andropov's known desire for an improvement in Sino-Soviet relations, but Mr Aliyev merely observed that Moscow was "invariably" in favour of improvement. Mr Wan said he hoped the obstacles between Moscow and Peking – the large Soviet armed presence on China's border, Kremlin backing for Vietnamese control of Kampuchea, and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan – could be overcome in consultations. The next round is due in Moscow next month, but Russia is suspicious of Peking's recent amity with the United States.

Mr Chernenko ignored the opportunity for progress towards a political settlement in Afghanistan and turned down a request by President Zia of Pakistan for a private meeting. In 1982 Mr Andropov warmly greeted President Zia and spurned President Babrak Karmal, the Soviet-installed Afghan leader.

Mr Chernenko by contrast did not even respond to President Zia's approach while holding a long talk with Mr Karmal



Full circle: Brooke Knapp waving to fans in Washington yesterday after breaking the record for circling the world in a business-class jet. Her flight of 44 hours, 32 minutes and 53 seconds was to raise money for children.

Britain wants extra session on rebate

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

In a bid to free its £457m EEC budget rebate from the clutches of the European Parliament, Britain is poised to force reluctant MEPs to hold special session at the beginning of next month.

Officials relieve, there will simply not be enough time to complete all the necessary and negotiations formalities to release the money before the deadline of March 31 set by Mrs Thatcher is more than likely to carry out her threat and withhold payment of some of Britain's contributions.

Britain's net payment is around £100m a month. The EEC is now so desperately short of money that any block would speed up dramatically its slide into bankruptcy.

Under such a threat EEC leaders are unlikely to be in a mood to negotiate the long term Brussels summit on March 19. Failure there will mean the Community will run ou of money by late sumer. The Commission estimates that at present spending levels the EEC will need up to £1,000m more this year than is actually available.

The Commission axe is most likely to fall on regional and social fund spending. Even if good progress is made at the March summit there is no way in which resources can be increased until 1986 by then all Community policies, including agriculture, will be feeling a very sharp pinch.

Foreign ministers from the member states meet informally at St Cloud outside Paris this weekend to try to prepare a package which stands any chance of being agreed.

Apart from a new Commission paper on budgetary discipline, there will be no agenda. Britain hopes the financial crisis will make the other countries face unpalatable facts. There does seem to be growing support for French proposals on controlling spending.

But Britain's blocked rebate and the looming constitutional problem require the most urgent action, so Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will be trying this weekend to force Parliament to free the money.

The rebate was promised Mrs Thatcher during the June summit last year. It was frozen by Parliament in December so that it could check carefully that all the money was to be properly spent

This week, however, the budget committee failed to agree on the detailed proposals submitted by Britain. It wants Britain to pay a larger proportion of the projects than is being suggested, and it insists that the projects involved must have been started last year.

Unless there is another session, Parliament will not get a chance to vote on the issue before March 12. There would than have to be difficult negotiations with the Council of Ministers on how the money should be classified – a complex argument in which so many principles are at stake that neither side can be expected to give way easily.

Army seeks truce with Bonn over Kiessling

From Michael Binyon Bonn

The Kiessling affair appears to be virtually over. After Herr Manfred Wörner, the West German Defence Minister, admitted on Tuesday to a gathering of senior Army officers in Travemünde that he had made a mistake in dismissing the four-star general, the mood on the Bundeswehr is that it is time for reconciliation, and that both Army and minister must look forward.

Nevertheless, there was some sharp criticism of Herr Wörner at the meeting, and commentators suggest that ht has lost political authority and officers' confidence has been irreparably damaged.

The steam seems also to have gone out of the parliamentary inquiry, which has been hearing evidence from those involved. There is no wish to go over the allegations of homosexuality against General Kiessling, and no witnesses are being called from the homosexual scene. Government, politicians and the public are content to leave these awkawrd questions unanswered.

Instead, the inquiry in concentrating on the failure of the Military Intelligence Service to establish firm grounds for its advice to Herr Wörner. General Helmut Behrendt, the head of the Military Intelligence Service, admitted during testimony on Tuesday that he had made mistakes and said the supposed security risk offered by General Kiessling had disappeared after the general had agreed with Herr Wörner last September to accept early retirement

General Behrendt, however, sharply criticized the politicians in the Defence Ministry, saying Herr Joachim Hiehle, the State Secretary responsible for the Military Intelligence Service had insisted on continuing the investigations to clear up the gossip and rumours

General Behrendt said this stance was "neither sensible nor justified." He had given repeated warnings that such inquiries could lead only to a public scandal in view of General Kiessling's senior position.

General Behrendt admitted however that he had made an error in contacting the Cologne police in making inquiries in the bars the general was supposed to have visited.

Jesse Jackson's campaign

Third World stance embarrasses rivals

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

The Reverend Jesse Jackson likes to portray himself as the champion of the oppressed, both in the United States and around the world.

The domestic policies which he advocates as he stumps around the country trying to put together a "rainbow coalition" to support his presidential challenge are aimed very much at blacks, Hispanics and other minorities who have yet to acquire their share of the American dream. His foreign policies are unashamedly directed at the Third World.

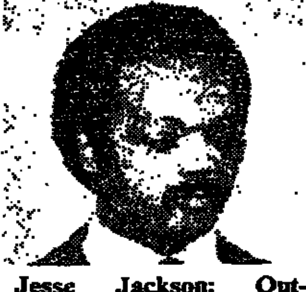
"I grew up in an occupied zone," he told an audience in Boston the other day, referring to his birthplace in Greenville, South Carolina. "I had to negotiate with the colonial power for the right to vote, for open housing, for equal pay. We had to negotiate the end of apartheid here in this country."

This portrayal of American blacks struggling for their rights against white oppressors just as blacks in Africa fought for their independence from European colonialists goes down well with the predominantly black crowds which turn out to hear him. In Boston, as during other speeches he makes along the campaign trail, they frequently interrupted with applause and shouts of "yeah", and "right".

Whether his articulate and emotional advocacy of minority rights will win him many votes outside the black and Hispanic communities remains to be seen. But his insistence on emphasizing the "Third World" aspect of foreign policy has introduced a novel – and at times divisive – element into the Democratic Party's approach to international affairs, particularly on the Middle East.

The Democrats, more than the Republicans, have long been known for their support of Israel. As a result a majority of the nation's six million Jews has traditionally supported the Democratic Party and lavishly supplied it with campaign funds.

Yet in Mr Jackson the party now has a presidential candidate who not only publicly embraced Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine



Jesse Jackson: Outspoken views

Liberation Organisation, five years ago but who calls for the creation of a Palestinian homeland in the Middle East. All the other key candidates are strongly pro-Israel.

Many Jewish Democrats have been offended by what they perceive to be Mr Jackson's pro-Arab stance, particularly since he successfully negotiated the release of Lieutenant Robert Goodman, a US flier, from Syria last month.

They have fought to discredit Mr Jackson for allowing Operation Push, a Chicago-based civil rights organization of which he is president, to accept $200,000 from the Arab League. Mr Jackson says he has also received death threats from Jewish extremists.

Mr Jackson shows no signs of remorse for voicing views which few white political figures would care – or dare – to express. Defending the Arab League contributions, he points out that the influence of Arab nations on American political life is tiny compared with that of the Jewish lobby . . . besides, Operation Push is a charitable and not a political concern, he says.

In his speeches Mr Jackson never fails to condemn the Reagan Administration's pro-South African bias and likes to embarrass his rivals by calling on them publicly to advocate a policy of trade sanctions and disinvestment if they become president.

One effect of Mr Jackson's involvement in the Presidential race has been to make his seven rivals rethink their position on foreign issues. As a result they have become less eurocentric in their approach and pay more attention to Third World issues.

US election guide

US PRIMARY AND CAUCUS CALENDAR FOR 1984

The Democratic national convention will be held in San Francisco July 16-19. The Republican convention takes place a month later in Dallas August 20-23

State	Democrats Delegates	Democrats Caucuses	Democrats Primary	Republican Delegates	Republican Caucuses	Republican Primary
Ala	62		March 13	38		March 3
Alaska	14	March 14		18	Apr-May	
Ariz	39	April 14		32	May	
Ark	42	Mar 17-31		29	Jan-Feb	
Calif	345		June 5	176		June 5
Colo	51	May-June		35	May-July	
Conn	60		March 27	35		March 2
Dele	18	March 14		19	May-June	
D.C.	19		May 1	14		May 1
Florida	143		March 13	82		March 3
Georgia	84		March 13	37		March 3
Hawaii	27	March 13		14	Jan-May	
Idaho	22	May 24		21		May 22
Ill	194		March 20	93		March 2
Ind	88		May 8	52		May 8
Iowa	58	Feb-May		37	Feb-June	
Kansas	44	Mar-Apr		32	May-June	
Ky	63	Mar 17-31		37	Mar-May	
La	68		April 7	41		April 7
Maine	27	March 4		20	Jan-Apr	
Mary	74		May 8	31		May 8
Mass	116		March 13	52		March 3
Mich	155	Mar-Apr		77	Jan 27-28	
Minn	86	Mar-May		32	Mar-June	
Miss	43	Mar-Apr		30		June 5
Missouri	86	April-May		47	Mar-June	
Montana	25	March 25		20		June 5
Neb	30		May 15	24		May 15
Nevada	20	Mar-Apr		22	Apr-May	
New Hamp	22		Feb 28	22		March 6
N.J.	122		June 5	64		June 5
N. Mex	28		June 5	24		June 5
N.Y.	285		April 3	136		April 3
N Car	88		May 8	53		May 8
N Dak	18	Mar 14-28		18	Jan-Apr	
Ohio	175		May 8	89		May 8
Oklahoma	53	Mar-Apr		35	Mar-Apr	
Oregon	50		May 15	32		May 15
Penn	195		April 24	98		April 4
R.I.	27		March 13	14		March 3
S Car	48	Mar17&26		35	Feb-Apr	
S Dak	19		June 5	19		June 5
Tenn	76		May 1	46		May 1
Texas	200	May 5&19		109		May 5
Utah	27	Apr-June		26	Apr-June	
Vermont	17	April 24		19	Apr-May	
Virginia	78	Mar-May		50	Jan-June	
Wash	70	Mar-June		43	Mar-July	
W Virginia	44		June 5	19		June 5
Wisconsin	89	Mar-May		46	April 3	
Wyoming	15	March 10		18	Feb-Mar	
Am Somoa	6	March 13				
Dems abroad	5		March 13			
Guam	7	mid-April		4	Mar-Apr	
Lat Amer Dems	5	Mar 17				
Puerto Rico	53		March 18	14	Feb 19	
Virgin Is	6	June 5		4	May 3	

US hopes for useful dialogue

From Mohsin Ali Washington

President Reagan believes that the new Soviet leadership is making an effort to play down rhetoric and to explore ways to promote a more useful dialogue.

In his first public appearance on Wednesday since the death of Mr Andropov, the president said that the atmosphere was positive during Tuesday's meeting between Vice President George Bush and Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the new Soviet leader, at Mr Andropov's funeral in Moscow.

"Although Secretary Chernenko did not depart from standard Soviet positions, he did appear ready to put our relationship on a more constructive basis," President Reagan said in remarks prepared for a fund-raising event for women political candidates of his Republican Party.

"If the new leadership decides to join us in a good faith effort we can accomplish much together", Mr Reagan said. There was no better time to start than right now. If he Soviet Government wanted peace, then there would be peace.

A month ago, the President called for a constructive working relationship between the two superpowers and on the Soviet Union to return to the Geneva arms control negotiations.

On Wednesday he said again that the US had always been willing to meet the Soviet Union halfway to find solutions to the many problems that divide them and to reach fair arms-reduction agreements.

He said that Mr Bush had emphasized to Mr Chernenko America's desire for greater mutual understanding, and genuine cooperation. Mr Bush had also made clear Washington's concern about issues such as human rights, and regional conflicts.

The President has rejected the idea of an early "get-acquainted" summit with Mr Chernenko, but he reemphasized on Tuesday that he would be interested in a "substantive" summit.

● TOKYO: Japan and the Soviet Union are to meet here on March 12 and 13 (AP reports).

Lawyer's plea for Orlov

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr John Macdonald, QC, the British lawyer who has taken up the case of Dr Yuri Orlov, appealed to the new leadership in Moscow yesterday to release the Soviet phycisist.

Dr Orlov, a former leader of the Moscow group monitoring Soviet observance of the Helsinki Accords, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and five years internal exile for anti-state activities in 1978. Mr Macdonald said that he had now been released from prison, bt had been sent immediately into internal exile in the Yakutsk region – one of the harshest in Siberia.

"I know that the decision was taken on February 6 before Mr Andropov died. I ask the new general secretary (Mr Chernenko) to make a gesture to wards the scientific community

"I invite Professor Orlov and his wife Irina to stay with me in London

Neutral Austria: Part 2, the military

Air defences limited by lack of funds

Austria's reestablishment as an independent republic in 1955 also saw its "permanent neutrality" defined by military restrictions. Dr Bruno Kreisky, the former Chancellor saw neutrality as best defended by basing international organizations in Vienna. His successors, the Socialist-Liberal Coalition, are looking at more conventional safeguards. In the final article on Austrian neutrality, Richard Bassett, Vienna Correspondent, examines its effect on Austria's defence.

According to the Federal Constitutional Law of 1955, Austria cannot join any military alliance, nor permit the establishment of foreign bases on its territory. By article 5 of The Hague Convention, Austria is obliged, furthermore, to prevent its territory or air space from being used by any belligerent nation and for this reason alone has to maintain "adequate military forces".

"Defence strength is an important factor in assuring respect for neutrality and deterring potential aggressors", says Dr Friedhelm Frischenschläger, a Liberal who, since the formation last May of a Socialist-Liberal coalition Government, has been Austria's Minister for Defence. In an emergency, Dr Frischenschläger is confident that 300,000 men could be mobilized to defend Austria's 1,864-mile frontier.

In theory, Austria's comprehensive national defence plan looks quite impressive for a country with only 7.5 million inhabitants. Organized on a conscript militia basis, Austrian forces familiar with the local terrain would wage relentless guerrilla warfare on any aggressor.



Dr Frischenschlager: No request for bigger budget.

But, while parts of Austria cold prove as defensible as the hills of Afghanistan, its eastern frontier, as the Turks well knew 300 years ago, offers the invader every strategic advantage.

In addition, despite all the area defence plans produced by the country's enormous corps of colonels, the Austrians' attitude to defence is rather Ruritanian. Last October its expensive early warning system in the Carinthian Alps broke down. It was reported to have remained inactive for 48 hours because, it was a weekend, no one who could authorize repairs among the General Staff was able to be alerted.

Manoeuvres held two winters ago in Western Tyrol were considered equally uninspiring. Although for the sake of Austria's neutrality the attacking army was not named, the aggressors' thrust was clearly coming from a Nato country. Perhaps for this reason, the defending army took a rather relaxed view of their enemy and the complete air superiority "written into" their forces.

For, to the amazement of several Western defence attaches inspecting the defenders' positions, tanks and even a brigade headquarters were left exposed for hours in the middle of open fields or some comfortable *gasthaus*.

"We can only hope", said one Western observer, "that if the Austrians faces a real attack from the east, they'd get their act a little more together".

Warsaw Pact manoeuvres in Czechoslovakia last week showed that the Austrian High Command has no grounds for complacency. But, for many of the Austrian General Staff, some of whom saw action with the German Wehrmacht on the Russian front, the entire plausibility of Austria's defence is considerably dented by the absence of suitable interceptors to patrol the air-space.

At the moment, Austria relies on 32 Saab 105 jets, which were considered obsolete in most European air forces by 1960. It has no ground to air missiles as these are expressly forbidden in the 1955 State Treaty. The same clause prohibiting the use of "self-propelled or guided missiles . . . or apparatus connected with their discharge or control" would also seem to rule out air to air missiles, although Dr Frieschenshläger and his party chief, Herr Norbert Steger, both insist this is merely a question of interpretation.

By the end of the year, the Defence Minister insists, Austria will have its new interceptors. These may be British Jaguars or American aircraft but cost and Austria's wish not to be seen favouring either military block are likely to result in the purchase of Sraken interceptors from neutral Sweden.

Eventually, it may even be possible for the Austrian arms industry, which has already produced inpressive rifles and tanks, to develop its own interceptors.

But for all Dr Frischenschläger's optimism, the conservative People's Party Opposition as well as several military experts are sceptical that the Government will find sufficient funds to buy the interceptors this year.

Years of Socialist Government with little time for defence budgets, have whittled away expenditure to a mere 3.46 per cent of the state budget. With Dr Kreisky's resignation last April and the Liberals entry to the Government hopes were raised that the old Socialist philosophy of protecting Austria's neutrality by setting up international headquarters in Vienna would be revised. But Dr Frischenschläger so far has not asked for more funds.

Moreover, within months of taking office, the Defence Minister astonished his staff, and many of his party, by allowing the Army to have a day off to attend peace demonstrations in Vienna.

Dr Frischenschläger is quick to defend his decision, pointing out that one of the most useful achievements of post-war Austrian history has been the successful integration of the Army into the population. The absence of this 50 years ago this week resulted in near civil war, as the Army bombarded Austrian workers in the Socialist housing estats of Vienna.

Concluded

THE ARTS

Operetta
Deliciously poised

atience
oliseum

letter to *The Times* in 1973 mplained that there were only instead of the requisite 20 vesick maidens visible in Oyly Carte's production of lbert and Sullivan's "new and iginal Aesthetic Opera". *itience* has indeed been tried d tested rigorously in the last cade or two and nowhere ore so than at English ational Opera where, for 15 ars, John Cox's production s had to keep itself firmly on toes.

Now there is new compe- ion up the road at New dler's Wells Opera, this *itience* is still, and "utterly nsummately" very much on mettle. John Stoddart's :signs, originally exhibited in 969 at the National Portrait allery alongside George Du laurier's *Punch* cartoons, shine it as joyfully as the sunflower, ith the Wattsesque chapel eanly ornate and the delightful lirty greens" of the stencil ora elegantly silhouetted.

And, because John Cox has turned in person to direct this vival, the staging still wears s assiduous research lightly. lis comic business is as deftly rmed here to Sullivan's mock alianisms as it is characteristi- ally, elsewhere to the real ning. Where the first act reatens truly to become a case f "toffee for breakfast, toffee or dinner, toffee for tea", a icker of verbal timing or the udden crash and turn of a horal repetition add tang to the ir.

Each inflexion, each colour hange, from pastel to primary, s reflected in the pit by Victor Morris's astute direction. Rumbustious here, melancholic here, it always moves with just he springy, catlike tread re- quired by this score.

If the production itself has iged well, then so have its principals. Derek Hammond-Stroud seems to have shed years, even, vocally and physi- cally, in the everlasting bloom of his Bunthorne. His "Sing heigh to you" duet with Lady Jane is a masterpiece of understatement, as fresh in its


Derek Hammond-Stroud: everlasting bloom

wit and dexterity as if Hinge and Bracket had never been born. Lady Jane herself is amply embodied once more by Anne Collins, delicious in her uncrushable dignity, and a splendid warning to all those tempted to adverbial prodi- gality.

At the centre stands ENO's first Welsh Patience: Patricia O'Neill, taking the role for the first time, brings to it just enough coyness not to cloy, and an inflexion ("I yearn my living") that could have been written into the part. Shelagh Squires returns as Lady Saphir, while the remaining rapturous maidens add to the evening's debuts.

Jane Eaglen, who has just joined the company, is clearly far more than the tinkling cymbal she flourishes as Lady Ella: we look forward to hearing more, and in different guise, of her distinctively resonant so- prano. Sally Burgess's urbane Lady Angela provides a pleasing foil, as does Christopher Booth-Jones's Grosvenor to Bun- thorne. He, too, makes his debut in the role here, and presents a portrait of "four- teenth-century frenzy" which is as nicely poised between the distant and the immediate as the entire production.

Hilary Finch

Cinema
Sense of tragedy survives all the inconsistencies

Star 80 (18)
Gate Bloomsbury; Classic Haymarket

Strange Invaders (PG)
Studio Oxford Circus

Curse of the Pink Panther (PG)
Plaza

Star 80 confirms Bob Fosse's fasci- nation with the morbid and mortal *dark side of fame, already evident in Lenny* and *All That Jazz*. It is a dramatization of the true story of Dorothy Stratten, a naive and beautiful youngster who went from Canada to California; became briefly a star in Hugh Hefner's *Playboy* galaxy; made a few forgettable films before she met Peter Bogdanovich and played in his *Let Them Laugh*; tumbled into romantic involvement with Bogdanovich; and was murdered by her jealous husband-manager, who took his own life at the same time.

The case has evidently a strong fascination. Since the tragedy, in 1980, Teresa Carpenter has won the Pulitzer Prize with her *Village Voice* article "Death of a Playmate", on which Fosse's own script is "in part" based; there has been a television feature film *Death of a Centerfold: the Dorothy Stratten Story*; and Peter Bogdanovich is on the point of publishing his own account of the affair.

As Fosse sees the story, Paul Snider is a small-time pimp and hustler who sees his big break in Dorothy. His push launches her, but the first step up the ladder already takes her out of his class. Incorrigibly cheap and gaudy, he is despised by the smooth *Playboy* lot; and even the artless and good-natured Dorothy quickly recog- nises that he has become a liability. Her success meanwhile sharpens his own sense of failure in everything he does, whether organizing male strip- shows or marketing dubious ortho- paedic goods.

Probably Fosse himself feared that this story of Boy Meets Girl, Girl Leaves Boy, Boy Slays Girl was rather thin for a dramatic film. The solution he attempts is to elaborate it with the somewhat démodé "mosaic" (or, rather, crazy-quilt) structure, cutting backwards and forwards between not- very-enigmatic flashes of the murder, *post facto* interviews with the survivors of the story, and the progression of the doomed romance. The method has two major disadvan- tages. It effectively removes suspense, since we know from the start the outcome. This sort of fragmentation, and the flashy cutting entailed, make it hard to explore the characters very deeply. Depth, though, is not much in Fosse's style. His interest is in externals.

Pushy yet pitiful: Eric Roberts as Paul Snider questions a Playboy Bunny (Tina Willson) about the activities of his wife in *Star 80*

The externals are, of course, glittery and catching. The director of pho- tography is Sven Nykist, who has caught the bright colour and light and look of *Playboy* glamour. The metamorphosis of Dorothy (Mariel Hemingway) from a lively high-school girl to a sultry and provocative centrefold is fascinatingly detailed. So is all the depressing, aseptic, confected sensuality of the Hefner world, peopled by fluffy pink girls and men with blue-rinsed hair and gold chains.

Mariel Hemingway's performance is touching, and intimates that it may be because there is no evident real father in her life (we see only her protective, bewildered mother, nicely played by Carroll Baker) that she is so dependent on a dangerous succession of strong-willed men – Snider, Hefner and Bogdanovich. (Bogdanovich is the only character who is not given his real-life name: the casting of an English actor, Roger Rees and the change of name suggests an unavail- ing effort to disclaim the identifi- cation.)

More remarkable is the perform- ance of Eric Roberts as Snider. This is only Roberts's third film appearance in six years, which is all the stranger since his playing in both *King of the Gypsies* and *Raggedy Man* was outstanding. In *Star 80* he is cast against his own ordinarily fresh and sympathetic type, and has to over- come the inherent inconsistencies and unsubtleties of the script. His Snider is cheap, violent, unprincipled, pushy and repellently dressed, even when he drops the pimp style for the Playboy. His innate violence appears early and nastily in the film when he playfully stabs a prom party dancer with a flick- knife. Yet Roberts still manages to build such a sense of pity about this lonely, hopeless, out-of-his-depth punk that the climactic scene of slaughter and necrophilia touches on tragedy.

The reassuring optimism of *Stange Invaders* makes it an exception among science-fiction films. We are accustomed to apocalyptic presenti- ments of doom. The message of this film is that nothing is as bad as it seems, even if the space people snatch your wives and children and the Government is, in some sort of conspiracy with them. When all the special effects are done and the last false face has been juicily peeled off, the peace and order of Middle America are restored.

The script is not very coherent, but the film has two things in its favour. One is a moment of poetry and a hint of what the film might have been, when a man aged by ten years of worry is reunited with his wife and children who have stayed untouched by the intervening years. The other is the casting of Paul LeMat, the leading man from Jonathan Demme's *Citizens' Band* and *Melvin and Howard*. LeMat is a chubby, amiable, anxious, untidy young man whose shirt is always tumbling out of trousers that seem themselves on the point of subsidence; and who has a way of impressing belief both in his worries and his warmth. *Strange Invaders* was directed by Michael Laughlin, and written by him in collaboration with William Condon.

Curse of the Pink Panther is a further eerie attempt to keep Inspec- tor Clouseau alive after the death of his creator, Peter Sellers. In last year's *Trail of the Pink Panther* a lot of old Sellers footage was uncomfortably patched into a new story. *Curse of the Pink Panther* is more ingenious, in dispensing with the need to produce Clouseau in person. The Sûreté decide to put the best detective in the world on to the job of finding the mislaid inspector, but Clouseau's boss (Herbert Lom), fearful of the return of his distressing subordinate, pro- grammes the computer to find the world's worst detective.

This produces New York's least wanted cop, Clifton Sleigh, played by Ted Wass, and clearly a try-out as permanent successor to Seller's Clouseau. Wass is a comedian in the mould of Harold Lloyd, with the same horn-rimmed spectacles, col- lege-boy earnestness and tendency to get shoved out of high windows. He even does bit of actual Lloyd business with a suit that has shrunk after a dipping in a swimming pool.

Given the chance of the kind of sight gag that Blake Edwards does best (there is a fine moment with a high wind and an umbrella), Wass comes into his own. Like the film in general, however, he is handicapped most of the time by the script, which is wordy, laboured and generally witless. Blake Edwards is clearly in need of a writer. As his own scenarist he is worst when he is smuttiest.

The appearances of a frail David Niven, who has had to be provided with a dubbed voice, and of Peter Arne, who was subsequently murdered, add to the film's somewhat morbid, Burke- and-Hare resurrectionism.

David Robinson

Concerts

We shall have opportunities to reconsider *Gloriana* at the Coliseum next month and *Owen Wingrave* at Aldeburgh in June, as was reported here last week (*Albert Herring* still awaits its champion). Meanwhile per- formances and recordings are discovering the life in two concert works that puzzled Britten's admirers in the early 1960s: the *War Requiem*, thought to be too popular to be intelligent, and the Cello Sym- phony, considered too intelli- gent to be viable.

ECO/Bedford
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Nothing is ever quite fixed in the world of music: even Mozart is changed for those lucky enough to have heard Murray Perahia's performance on Wednesday of the A major Piano Concerto, K488, stern in its total seriousness yet affec- tionate in its beauty. In the case of Britten, however, revision of attitudes is proving unusually wholesale, widespread and rapid; and new merit is constantly being found in later works formerly judged prob- lematic.

It was the latter that Raphael Wallfisch so valiantly and successfully rescued in this third evening of the English Chamber Orchestra's valuable Mozart-Britten series.

Perhaps the work's difficult- ies for the listener stem from the centrality of the cello, which makes an uncharacteristic view- point into the texture of a Britten composition: one is much more used to hearing his music in terms of high voices and instruments. But the soloist's main worry, once he has tucked away all the virtuosity, must by that the almost continuous cello solilo- quy is so much voiced for Rostropovich's *musical person- ality*.

Mr Wallfisch got around this problem with his conscientious- ness and honesty. He took on personal responsibility for the tense argument of the first movement, for the scherzo's dance and for the adagio's dark wanderings; he then basked with a touch of permissible pride in the glory of the concluding passacaglia.

Of course the Rostopovich mannerisms – the intense high trills, the large bowings – were still there: they are written into the score. But they were allusions, not caricatures, along a thorny path Mr Wallfisch was exploring for himself, albeit with encouraging support from the orchestra under Steuart Bedford.

This orchestra's sympathetic response to Mr Perahia one now takes for granted, which is no bad thing if it allows one to concentrate on Mr Perahia. He began K488 by drawing from the strings a smooth legato he proved well able to match at the keyboard, in sounds of sweet melancholy softened by dis- tance. The slow movement he brought forward, finding an initial eccentricity that his playing then accommodated, before a finale that did not falter from the performance's elev- ated plateau.

Paul Griffiths

LMP/Blech
Festival Hall

Times have changed since the London Mozart Players, who in this concert celebrated their thirty-fifth birthday, first en- riched the capital's concert life with what were then compara- tively stylish, small-scale performances of Haydn and Mozart. Even the tradition- bound English Chamber Or- chestra has been perceptibly influenced by the Hogwoods and Harnoncourts.

But under the distinguished guiding hand of its director, Harry Blech, this ensemble has remained entrenched in its ways. Only in the seating of the orchestra (with first and second violins placed opposite each other) can any nod in the direction of authenticity be perceived. Now, though, some sort of revitalizing force is needed, and maybe Mr Blech himself has recognized that, for at the end of the season he relinquishes his post to Jane Glover.

But, for the time being, the relaxed tempos and blunt articulation remain, and no continuo instrument is allowed to encroach upon Mr Blech's hallowed ground. Fair enough perhaps in the full textures of Mozart's Symphony No 40, but a crucial mistake in Haydn's Symphony No 49 ("La Pas- sione"), where there are obvious gaps in the harmony.

More worrying than such matters was the generally insipid approach to the music, particularly in the Haydn. The wide leaps in the fast second movement, which heighten the pathos implicit in the dimin- ished intervals of the minor scale, had virtually no impact. And, where its *Sturm und Drang* effects should have had you on the edge of your seat, the Menuetto simply plodded duti- fully. Nevertheless, full marks to the horns. Happily the outer movements of the Mozart, played in the version without clarinets, had a greater sense of tension, but again the Andante and Menuetto sounded laboured.

The two concertos failed to lighten the burden of an arduous evening's listening. Malcolm Messiter gave the first movement of Mozart's C major Oboe Concerto with an almost manic energy that had obvi- ously spent itself by the finale. And Ernst Kovacic played a Haydn Violin Concerto in the same key with just the sort of lavish romanticism that it did not need.

Stephen Pettitt

Television
Three-chord trick

For a fairly short time in the Fifties, skiffle satisfied the longings of those with musical aspirations but no qualifi- cations. If you could play three chords on a guitar, or afford a kazoo (it buzzed), or acquire a washing line, a tea chest and a broomstick, which together made a bass, you could join a group anywhere or even form one. Professional musicians, beached by the wave, would probably have said that it did not hurt to be tone-deaf, but the young weren't listening.

This brief flowering of any- thing-goes-for-anybody was celebrated in BBC1's *Forty Minutes*, produced and directed by Alan Patient, last night. The arch-priest Lonnie Donegan, whose "Rock Island Line" made the top ten in 1956 and became a hit in America, too – maybe in part because of their astonishment at hearing their own music sung back at them – was on parade and other less well-known practitioners came out.

They included the Labour MP Stan Crowther and two professors of physics, Doctors John Hasted and Brian Silver. All demonstrated that, however their horizons had expanded, they could still strum away. Dr Silver reflected on the emerg- ence of the guitar, then a comparatively rare instrument here.

Others went on to greater musical achievement – John Lennon, in whose native Liver- pool 300 skiffle groups, each with its coterie of devotees, competed for public attention, and Chris Barber, the enduring jazzman, among them.

Donegan's music inspired the more adventurous to go to his sources, and that section of the British public discovered per- formers such as Big Bill Broonzy, Huddie ("Leadbelly") Ledbetter and Woody Guthrie. Many came over to be seen and heard, thanks largely to Chris Barber who acted as something of a catalyst.

Jazz continued but rock, which Mr Donegan thought was really the result of a failure on the part of white boys to imitate black boys successfully, came flooding in on an ocean of sound by courtesy of a mass of electric wires. In a sense, skiffle was electrocuted.

Dennis Hackett

هكذا من الأصل

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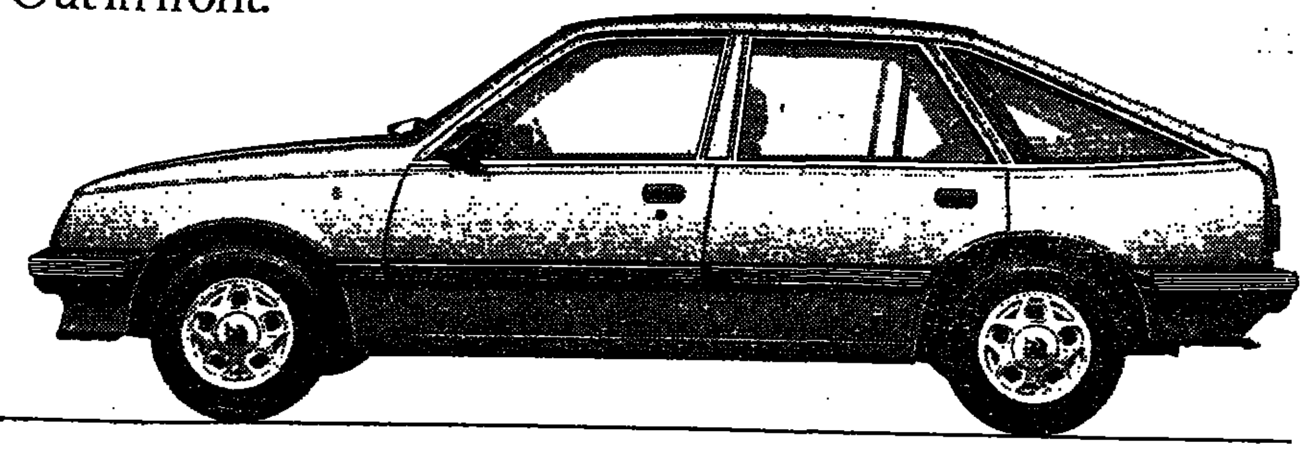
There are now 23 models in all. The range, including booted-saloons and hatchbacks, has just been further extended with the new estate.

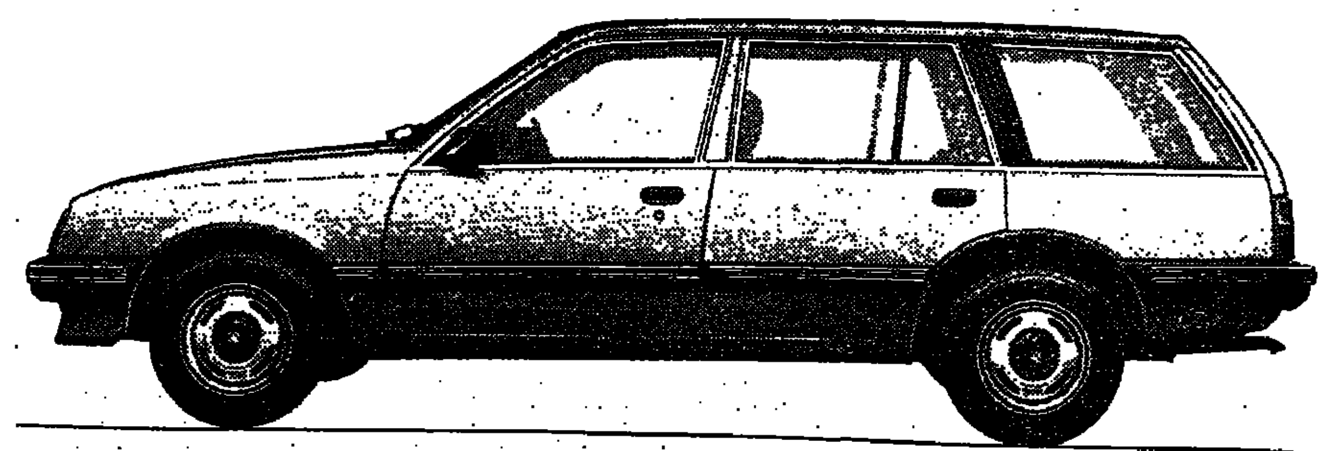
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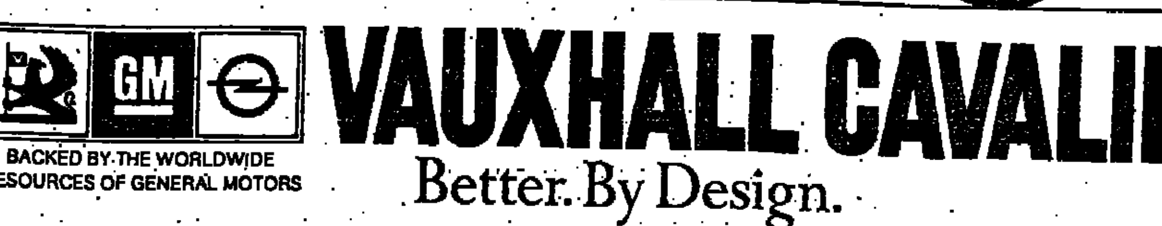
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SPECTRUM

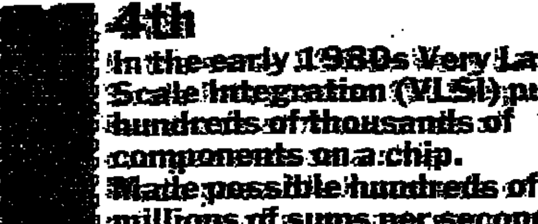
FINDINGS SPECIAL: Super Computers

1st Generation
Designed in the mid-1940s by John von Neumann and built with thermionic valves. Vast, cumbersome and prone to break down frequently

2nd
Introduced in the late 1950s and built with separate transistors. Far more reliable and compact



3rd
In the late 1960s, several electronic components were combined on a small silicon wafer or chip as an integrated circuit. Size and manufacturing costs fell



4th
In the early 1980s Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) put hundreds of thousands of components on a chip. Made possible hundreds of millions of sums per second

5th
Arriving in the 1990s? New architectures and sofware will be capable of intelligent processing of knowledge, rather than earlier data processing

Japan and the United States are racing to develop the 'fifth generation' of computers – machines which will calculate a thousand times faster than the present generation and which will be able to converse in non-technical language. The prize is economic supremacy in the 1990s.

Today's computers still follow the relatively simple architecture invented by John von Neumann for the primitive vacuum-tube machines of the 1940s. They have a central memory and processing unit, which performs calculations one by one. The single link between memory and processor has come to be known as the "von Neumann bottleneck" because of the limit it places on the computer's operating speed.

The "non-von Neumann architectures", with which researchers are experimenting for the Fifth Generation, rely on some form of parallel processing. The processors and memories are decentralized, and the computer gains speed by carrying out many different calculations at the same time. The difficulty, of course, is to keep the operations synchronized and prevent the computer racing into chaos when central control is removed.

One popular approach is "data flow", invented by Jack Dennis at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and espoused by John Gurd at Manchester University, where a group has built a small experimental data flow computer. Another British team, headed by John Darlington at Imperial College, is working on a machine called Alice, based on a variation of the same principle.

The chart (above, right) shows how data flow would cope with a very simple calculation:

$(2+5) \times (3+5) + (4+5) \times 5$.

Described in words, the operations is: Add 2 to 5, add 3 to 5, and multiply those two sums. Add 4 to 5 and multiply by 5. Finally add together the results of the two multiplications.

The traditional sequential method required six consecutive steps:

2+5=7
3+5=8
4+5=9
7×8=56
5×9=45
56+45=101 (final answer)

In the data flow computer, the four starting numbers (2,3,4 and 5) are sent as independent "data packets" to the "nodes" (processors) that do the calculations as soon as the data arrive. So three separate copies of 5 go to the different adding nodes, and a fourth goes to a multiplying node.

The three first-stage additions take place simultaneously, and the results are sent on to the two multiplying modes, which again work simultaneously and transmit their answers for the final addition.

In this example, the data flow calculations took place in three phases rather than the six steps of the consecutive method. In real problems, hundreds of operations might be going on simultaneously, saving an enormous amount of time.

CURRENT COMPUTERS — (2+5)×(3+5) +(4+5)×5 — Program — Processors — CENTRAL MEMORY — ADD 2+5 — ADD 3+5 — ADD 4+5 — MULTIPLY 7×8 — MULTIPLY 5×9 — ADD 56+45 =101

FIFTH GENERATION — Program — DATA FLOW — ADD — MULTIPLY — Processor/ memory units — ADD =101

CHIPS

The alternative microchip

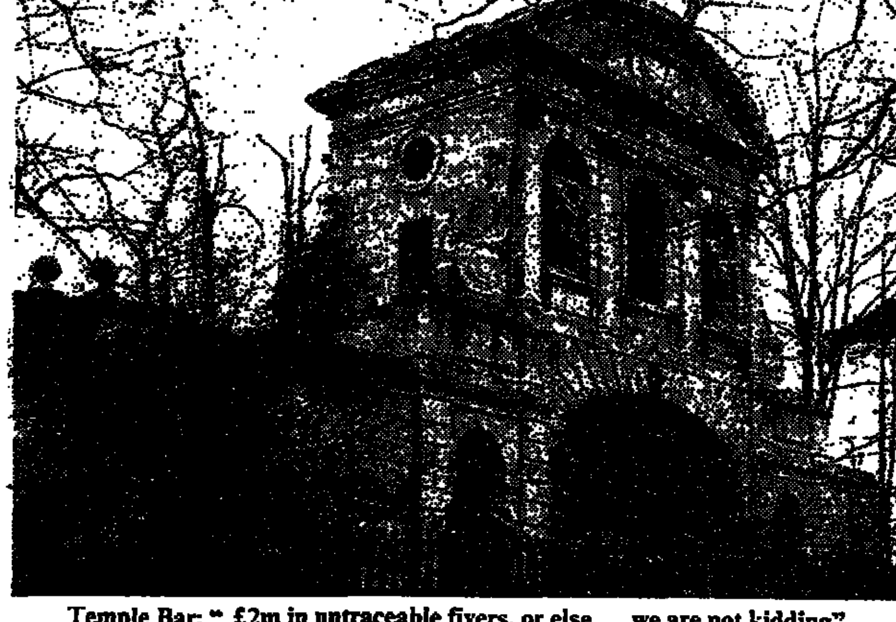
There is a complete contrast between the unchanging architecture of commercial computers and the astonishing pace of improvement in their most important components – from valves and transistors to today's microchips, which pack several hundred thousand transistors onto a wafer of silicon smaller than a fingernail.

Semiconductor researchers are pursuing various approaches to make sure that the rate of progress does not slacken. The most obvious is to cram more and more onto a conventional silicon chip by further miniaturization. The components on today's most sophisticated commercial chips are only two or three microns wide (a micron is one-thousandth of a millimetre or one-fiftieth the diameter of a human hair).

With new etching techniques (using far-ultraviolet, X-rays or electron beams) it may be possible in the 1990s to mass-produce chips with features measuring half-a-micron across, containing several million components – although all the electrical activity on such a small area would produce a formidable problem for designers.

Experimental alternatives to the silicon chip are now emerging.

- **Wafer-scale integration,** in which the circuitry of many chips is combined on a much larger wafer of silicon, 10 centimetres across. That allows much faster communication than between separate chips. But inevitable defects in such a large area of silicon make manufacture more tricky.
- **Three-dimensional chips,** in which the circuitry is stacked up on several layers. But the manufacturing details of "high-rise" technology have not been worked out.
- **Gallium arsenide (GaAs)** as an alternative semiconductor to silicon. Electrons can move through CaAs five times faster than through silicon. GaAs is close to mass-production.
- Combining previously separate functions on a single chip. The best example is the "transputer" which Inmos, Britain's state-backed chip company, hopes to begin manufacturing in about a year's time. It includes processor, memory and communications on a conventional-sized chip (see illustration below). This combination not only enables the processor to go 10 times faster than any conventional chip (up to 10 million instructions per second) but also makes the transputer an ideal building-block for decentralized Fifth Generation computers.



POLITICS

Generation of ideas

Britain's answer to the Fifth Generation is the Alvey Programme, a five-year national research project to which the Government will contribute £200m and industry £150m. It is more modest in scope than the grandiose Japanese project, but covers similar ground.

The programme (drawn up in 1982 by a government committee under John Alvey, technical director of British Telecom) is concentrating on four key technologies:

- Software engineering, to give designers of information systems a more efficient way to generate their computer programs;
- The "man/machine" interface – in other words finding better ways for people to communicate with computers by touch, sight and voice (including machine recognition of continuous human speech);
- Intelligent knowledge-based systems, giving computers a body of expert knowledge about a subject and a program to apply it, such as medical diagnosis; and
- Very large-scale integrated circuits (VLSI), to create the next generation of extremely powerful microchips.

Meanwhile the EEC is trying to set up an international project along similar lines, called Esprit (European Strategic Programme of Research of Information Technology). Preliminary studies are taking place in all 10 member countries, but final approval for the full-scale £800m programme is being delayed by wrangling over the Community's overall budget.

For computer scientists in the United States, Japan's Fifth Generation project provided the best possible tool with which to extract more money for artificial intelligence (AI) and supercomputing.

Led by Professor Edward Feigenbaum, Stanford University's AI pioneer, they have successfully portrayed the Japanese effort as a threat to the present American dominance of the worldwide computing industry and therefore to "national security".

As usual when federal research funds are required to keep America in the lead, the Pentagon is the prime source of grants. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is prepared to spend $1,000m over the next five years, twice as much as DARPA's expenditure on advanced computing over the past 20 years.

At the same time the giant American electronics companies are showing unprecedented willingness to cooperate on long-range research. Twelve companies have formed the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (MCC), a joint venture with an annual budget of $75m a year and led by Bobby Ray Inman, a respected retired admiral who previously ran the National Security Agency. Another undertaking is the Semiconductor Research Corporation; it sponsors work on the advanced chips.

The Japanese Fifth Generation Computer project caught the West's imagination from the moment of its public announcement in 1981. It is a 10-year cooperative effort by the government and electronics industry to develop computers that process "knowledge" and mimic human thought processes.

The Institute for New Generation Computer Technology (ICOT) in Tokyo, where the project is based, has 50 researchers chosen for their youth as well as their brilliance; all except the director are under 35. But many more scientists and engineers are involved in the laboratories of the eight major Japanese computer companies, and total expenditure may have exceeded £1,000m by 1991.

The blueprint for the Japanese Fifth Generation is based on ideas gathered mainly from American and European laboratories. But if they achieve even a fraction of their ambitions, no one in the 1990s will be able to criticize the Japanese for copying and perfecting rather than innovating.

EXPERT SYSTEMS

Machines that answer back

The first practical application of intelligence is in "expert systems". The computer programs enable machines to answer questions and solve problems in specialist fields, such as medicine and the use of knowledge and decision-making rules distilled from human experts.

Current expert systems can demonstrate their "intelligence" by explaining to users, when asked, the reasoning that led to a particular piece of advice. But the next generation will be intelligent in a more fundamental sense, having the ability to induce knowledge from examples or analogy; by learning in this way they should be able to outperform the human experts.

An example of the sort of system that should be feasible within 20 years is a writing aid to turn badly written English into perfect prose. Consider this semi-literate sentence:

THEIR WAS A MAT, AND IT WAS SAT ON BY A FAT CATT.

The first and easiest step is to check the spelling of each word against the computer's dictionary. It shows that Catt was misspelt. The computer then tries changing, removing, transposing and adding letters one at a time to produce a word that does exist in the dictionary. CAT and CART emerge as possibilities.

To decide which, if either, is correct, the computer searches its vast memory, derived from experience of English prose. CAT appears much more likely and the machine adopts it as the right word, but CART cannot be ruled out completely. So it now reads:

THEIR WAS A MAT, AND IT WAS SAT ON BY A FAT CAT.

Next the computer gives every word a grmmatical tag and examines the overall syntax. This shows up THEIR as another spelling mistake, since the sentence could not start with a possessive adjective followed by a verb. Again, the computer applies the experience stored in its memory and replaces their with THERE:

THERE WAS A MAT, AND IT WAS SAT ON BY A FAT CAT.

The remaining stages rely on stylistic rules – prefer active to passive voice, and make sentences as brief as possible without losing information. Processing information at a rate of billions of bits per second, the computer of the year 2004 quickly proceeds to

THERE WAS A MAT, AND A FAT CAT SAT ON IT.

and finally

A FAT CAT SAT ON THE MAT.

Clive Cookson
Graphics by John Grimwade

moreover . . . **Miles Kington**

Come back Temple Bar, all is forgiven

Should Temple Bar be brought back to London or be allowed to remain in dampest Hertfordshire? As the controversy rages on, I am pleased to print the best of the many letters I have received on the subject.

From Lord Bracket

Sir, There may not be many of your readers old enough, like me, to remember a time when Temple Bar was in Fleet Street. I often used to repair there after work for a quick drink or two before going home, and I can still remember the brilliant talk offered by such men as G. K. Chesterton, F. E. Smith, H. G. Wells and T. S. Eliot. One day Aldous Huxley tried to get in, but he was banned on the grounds that he had no initials. A. E. W. Mason was allowed in on sufferance, but we all felt that having three initials was a little nouveau riche.

I feel there is far too much use of first names these days – some people seem to have nothing *but* first names, like Clive James and Alan Brien.

yours etc

From Mr J. L. Simplon

Sir, It seems fairly obvious to me that nobody wants the Temple Bar and that if it did not exist, there would be no need to invent it. In which case, there seem to be two options open to us. We can either sell it to a gullible American and have it re-erected at enormous cost in the Arizona desert, or destroy it entirely.

It so happens that I have developed a new process which demolishes buildings into their component parts and leaves every brick unhurt and clearly numbered. This is so that, when the inevitable protest comes from the sentimental British, the monument can speedily be re-erected at very little extra cost. I look forward to hearing from the owners. yours etc

From Mr A. Gang

Sir, We have got the Temple Bar. Unless you leave £2m in untraceable fivers under it, you will never see it again. yours etc

Temple Bar: " £2m in untraceable fivers, or else. . . we are not kidding"

From Mr Duncan Pilger

Sir, I have incontrovertible proof that in case of nuclear war, Temple Bar is to be used as a regional cause of traffic jams. It is well known that the Government will not let Londoners leave the capital after the balloon goes up, and that all roads are to be blocked by half-demolished monuments. I need only cite Kensington Town Hall, etc. There is no way Temple Bar will be brought back to London. It is part of the Government's war plans, as my forthcoming Channel 4 series will help to show. yours etc

From Mr A. Gang

Sir, We are not kidding. We have got the Temple Bar. Let's see your money. We enclose a brick to show that we mean business. yours etc

From Mrs Mahonia Jackson

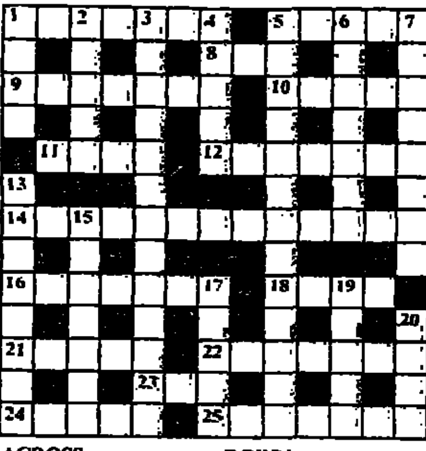
Sir, As someone who works in the Fleet Street area and knows that it is already crowded enough without Temple Bar being brought back, I have a revolutionary suggestion: why not take Fleet Street out to Hertfordshire? The newspaper industry would be much better suited to the back of beyond, where the lorries with their huge loads of what look like the world's biggest lavatory rolls would cause no traffic jams. While they are at it, they could take away those tramps who gather in the shadow of the hot air vents behind Bouverie Street. I suppose they are all ex-editors of the *News of the World*. yours etc

From Mr A. Gang

Sir, There's been a mistake. This thing we have, it isn't Temple Bar. It's a disused shoe factory on the outskirts of Northampton. But the same threat holds good. Say £100. Well, £50.

yours

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 270)



ACROSS
1 John Wyndham novel plant (7)
5 Trial panellist (5)
8 Engineer union (1,1,1)
9 Chivalrous (7)
10 Circular (5)
11 Legend (4)
12 Frolic (7)
14 Quit sooner (6,7)
16 Heavy downpour (7)
18 Ship floor (4)
21 Cooked in fat (5)
22 Weaken courage (7)
23 Ulmus tree (3)
24 Shockingly detailed (5)
25 Go before (7)

DOWN
1 Smart clothes (4)
2 Tooth filling (5)
3 Pampered (7,6)
4 Outmoded (5)
5 Law science (13)
6 Pasta squares (7)
7 N American warbler (8)
13 Honest (8)
15 Small hunting dog (7)
17 Outranking card (5)
19 Cut joint (5)
20 Pekinese (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 269
ACROSS: 1 Gothic 5 Spruce 8 Hit 9 Scampi 10 Revamp 11 Trot 12 Downfall 14 Industrialise 17 Stagnate 19 Ogre 21 Trivia 23 Timbre 24 Psi 25 Client 26 Awning
DOWN: 2 Occur 3 Hamstrung 4 Chindit 5 Straw 6 Rev 7 Cumulus 13 Fellow man 15 Natural 16 Inertia 18 Adapt 20 Return 22 Vie

FRIDAY PAGE

Sybille Bedford's past is there for all to deduce in the pages of her novels, but **Clare Colvin** discovers that her present is altogether more of a closed book

Journeys in a vanished world

Although Sybille Bedford's books clearly have a strong autobiographical element, she prefers that her own life remains an enigma. Yet it has provided her with enough material to write three novels, crammed with detail about a cosmopolitan world of rich, restless people who spend much of their lives making train journeys to escape the consequences of their actions. It is a world that vanished some time between the wars, and it almost vanished in fiction too, but finally the novels are to be reissued – a case of "Bedford Revisited".

She has been accused of indulging in nostalgia. Now, it seems, the wheel has come full circle.

"I can truthfully say I have never looked over my shoulder, and never looked at the market", she said when I met her. "I can write well only about something that has happened long ago. Sometimes you feel it is against the swim, but I think writers should write within their own range. If you are publicly accused of nostalgia, you find it very difficult not to be self-conscious. At the time I wrote *A Legacy* it seemed quite normal to be dealing with the 1870s and 1910."

In her youth, Sybille Bedford was shuttled back and forth across Germany, Italy, France and England is a series of family upheavals. She has now settled in a house in one of the prettiest parts of Chelsea, near the Embankment. As a connoisseur of good food and wine – the meals in her books are lovingly described – she is delighted with the neighbourhood shops where fresh pasta and other unEnglish things can be bought. The flat, in contrast to the opulence portrayed in her books, is sparsely furnished.

Her conversation is a mixture of hesitancy and a rush of words. In her novels the characters talk in brief, staccato sentences, and she has the same brittle, though not unfriendly, style. She is hesitant about identifying the characters she writes about with herself or her family. I mentioned a paragraph in *A Compass Error* in which she dealt with the difficulty of writing. Mrs Bedford gently corrected me. That was, of course, the character of Flavia talking, not to be confused with herself, though she did indeed find writing as hard as ever. "I really shun work sometimes."

The autobiographical clues are evident, though. In *A Legacy*, a South German baron sends the younger of his two sons to a military school, the brutality of which causes the boy to go mad. Years later, still mad but a captain, he is shot by a corporal. The ensuing scandal – arising from the fact that a lunatic could be promoted in a crack Prussian regiment and draw full pay, rocks the Kaiser's government. Mrs Bedford is the daughter of a South German baron, and there *had* been a scandal when her father's brother was killed by a fellow officer, though the circumstances were different. She left Germany in the 1920s, at the age of nine, after the death of her father, and did not return until she reported on the Auschwitz trials in Frankfurt in the 1950s.

"The atmosphere of the book was based on what I remembered, and on family stories. It is written with great loathing of Germany, but with restraint. I never did any research and, looking at it now, I am surprised where I plucked all the material from. I do think that is the way a work of fiction should be written. Something swims up in one's subconscious. I am astonished by the things I know and do not know how. When my father died, the estate was sold and it was as if it had never happened – this German past. It stayed suspended in amber."

From Germany, the young Sybille was taken to Italy when her mother married an Italian. *A Favourite of the Gods* is about three generations of women – the American Anna who marries and Italian prince, her daughter Constanza, and Constanza's own daughter Flavia. There is a great sense of loss in the book. Anna, dazzled by Italy when she marries the prince, ccannot adapt her North American puritanism to acceptance of her husband's infidelities, and she leaves the palazzo to live on her own after 20 years. The beautiful and intelligent Constanza is encouraged by her mother to make what turns out to be a disastrous marriage. Once "the favourite of the gods", she is rejected on all sides and retreats with Flavia to an isolated village in the south of France.

I suggested that the unfortunate marriage was the cause of Constanza's subsequent unhappiness, but Mrs Bedford felt that an outside agent could not be blamed. "We all ruin our own lives... I am sure we do. I set out to write about someone who is a 'favourite'. You have everything, good health, good looks, lively disposition, and then it goes wrong. I don't know what the answer is... you have to have something you are committed to."

Mrs Bedford's own mother was "a mixture of nationalities, partly Jewish – I cannot go into it, it is all too complicated". Together with Sybille's stepfather, they disseminated anti-Mussolini literature in the late 1920s. Sybille used to take from family to family copies of the *New Statesman* hidden under her pinafore, the theory being that if she were caught even Fascist Italians would not harm a child. Finally the authorities hinted that her own family were becoming *persona non grata* and they retreated to settle in France.



Brian Harris

Sybille Bedford: "I can write well only about something that has happened long ago"

It was in Provence, in the village of Sanary-sur-mer that Sybille came across writers, and began her own writing. There was clique of Germans, including Thomas Mann and Bertolt Brecht, "who thought they were gods and gave readings of their work in progress. I became great friends with the two eldest children, but Thomas Mann was very pompous. I thought his brother, Heinrich, was a great writer and I loved his son, Klaus, who killed himself after the war. Brian Howard used to come down in the summer. He was immensely amusing and witty – for for the first half of the evening. And then there was Aldous Huxley. I was such a fan of his as an adolescent that I insisted on being taken along to meet him."

Her friendship with the Huxleys resulted many years later in her writing a two-volume biography, published in 1973 and 1974. For a novelist accustomed to inventing her work, dealing with detailed facts was "a labour of love". It was, she said, like wearing chains all the time". She wrote factual books on law cases, such as the Dr Bodkin Adams trial. "He was an eccentric man, munching apples in the dock. He was patently innocent, but he turned the medical profession against him." She wrote *The Faces of Justice*, a report on law courts in England, France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, and covered for newspapers the trial of Jack Ruby at Dallas, and the "Lady Chatterley" and Stephen Ward trials at the Old Bailey. Her interest in law stemmed from the age of 12 or 13, when a kindly policeman let her into the Courts of Justice. She wanted to become a barrister, but vagaries of the family fortunes intervened, and in any event, she was told, a woman's voice sounded silly in court. No one would ever take a women barrister seriously.

Her third novel, *A Compass Error*, is set in a Provencal village called St Jean. Flavia, 17, left on her own by her mother, who is travelling with a lover, is taken up by a colony of artists and writers, and experiences her first love affair with the wife of an artist. This lesbian relationship is written about discreetly, but nevertheless it brings into the open what was only hinted at in the earlier books.

"People can be in love in an entirely platonic way, regardless of age or sex", Mrs Bedford said. "It happens all the time. You often find it between very young men and older women. It is difficult to write about love between women unselfconsciously, but by the time the story was published in 1969 the climate of opinion had changed. In the 1950s the topic was almost unmentionable. In the theatre at that time, half the men were 'queer', but if any of the women had the slightest inclination it was a great drawback for them. Now everybody is making too much of a fuss about it. I even heard the other day of a Richmond and Kingston-upon-Thames Gay Society...

"I am not very feminist, but I believe there should be equal laws and equal taxation for men and women, and there are enormous difficulties between the sexes. Anyway, I seem to have got my own way, which you can do if you never explain, never apologize and never shock people."

A Favourite of the Gods and A Compass Error were published by Virago this month. A Legacy reappears in Fontana in May.

TALKBACK

New code for caring

From Kina, Lady Avebury, Centre for Policy on Aging

Audrey Slaughter's gloomy article about the boom in private residential homes for elderly people (Friday Page, February 10) must hve given your readers the disturbing impression that private residential care is completely out of control and that elderly people enter such an establishment at their peril. It is the Centre's experience, based on five years intensive work with non-statutory residential care homes, that the private sector provides both the best and the worst standards of care, so older people in homes are not invariably being exploited for profit.

More importantly, however, Miss Slaughter neglected to mention that new legislation and accompanying regulations are shortly to be introduced by the Government which will make it impossible for "beady-eyed businessmen" to open or operate a home without first being able to demonstrate their qualifications and aptitude for caring for dependent people. The legislation, moreover, will be backed by a code of practice which is being drawn up by an independent working party, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Security, which will, for the first time, give social service departments and the public a yardstick by which to measure a "good home".

From T D Bamford, Chairman, British Association of Social Workers

Audrey Slaughter's article about private residential homes for the elderly clearly describes some of the pitfalls facing people trying to secure high quality care for their elderly relatives. While the article notes the mushrooming growth of private residential care in recent years, it does not identify the substantial subsidy which the tax-payer is providing to private homes through social security payments.

Residents in private homes who are not sponsored by a local authority or health authority may be eligible to have the full charge for the home met by supplementary benefit. In November last year arrangements for determining the level of charges were changed. Social security will now meet the highest reasonable charge for suitable accommodation in the area.

At the same time as opening up the scope for private entrepreneurs to increase their profit-margins, without regard to the needs of elderly residents, the Government is reducing the resources available to social services departments to maintain their own domiciliary and residential provision for the elderly.

The Department of Health and Social Security is schizophrenic in its approach. At a time of scarce resources cash is being made available for one sector of residential provision through the benefits side of the DHSS while resources for public services are being ever more tightly constrained with the concurrence of DHSS Ministers.

Model choice

From Roderigo Moynihan, Lausanne, Switzerland

I must correct the assumptions in Deborah Moggach's article on the Monday Page of February 6, on my work as a portrait painter. I like to paint from a model. Who and what they are is of secondary importance. Some of my more interesting portraits have been of academics".

Patricia Clough interprets the silent language behind the hugs and kisses

The Russian arms that mean goodwill



Have you ever noticed that goverments, like individuals, have a body language?

Take Yuri Andropov's funeral in Moscow this week. In a long significant shot, Soviet television focussed on three men: Konstantin Chernenko, 72, the new leader Mikhail Gorbachev, 52 and Grigoriy Romanov, contenders for the leadership. In official line-ups only a week before they had been placed well back: now they stood next to Mr Chernenko. The mute message which went out to millions of Soviet manwatchers seems clear: the younger, reform-minded men will have their chance next time.

It seems curious, in an age when governments have instant global communications, embassies-full of diplomats and the media to convey messages, threats, assurances and subtle hints, and when public relations have been brought to a fine art, that it is often simple physical gestures which reveal, more vividly than words, the real situations.

Body language is particularly important in communist countries which are not exactly famous for the openness of their decision-making processes or their trusting relations with other governments. Western diplomats in the communist blocks learn, like the inhabitants, to become highly-skilled political manwatchers, as quick to detect a non-verbal snub as they are to read between the lines in *Pravda*. For them, the Andropov funeral was a field day.

Richard Owen, *The Times* correspondent in Moscow and one of the few journalists present, says that at the post-funeral reception, Mrs Thatcher and Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, had long, more animated chats with Mr Chernenko, while the vice-president, George Bush was given a brief, cool greeting.

It was no coincidence: it is all symbolic of the policy of being nice to the Europeans and tough with the Americans – in the hopes of driving a wedge into Nato.

I once watched as West Germany's chief representative in communist East Berlin, Herr Günter Gaus, bade farewell to a top East German representative who had attended an official reception at the West German mission there. No sooner was the august visitor off the premises than Herr Gaus turned to his aides with shining eyes and enthused: 'He stayed for 40 minutes! It was quite demonstrative!"

Well, I can't exactly remember if it was 40 minutes, but the man's physical presence at the party, sipping Sekt and indulging in polite; superficial chat, was of a length to indicate quite clearly to his hosts that Moscow had given the green light for a period of better relations. No doubt the news was flashed instantly to Bonn.

The warmth of the embrace and the three kisses which the Russians bestow on visiting comrades is a useful guide to the diligence with which they toe the Moscow line. The bear hugs once inflicted on diminutive Chinese communist frames, for instance have now dwindled into polite handshakes.

Not many Poles tend to go to Moscow and it is not clear exactly what happens to those who do, but the standard airport photographs in the Polish papers do not show them being hugged.

Westerners on the whole are spared such effusions, though Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, paid the price for his *Ostpolitik* with a huge embrace from President Leonid Brezhnev. (His pretty Norwegian wife Rut got an even warmer one, but Kremlinologists rule out any political significance in this.)

Mr Brezhnev, however, had the tables turned on him at the signing of the Salt Treaty in Vienna in 1979 when President Carter, apparently carried away by all the detente, impulsively embraced him. The Russian leader was clearly stunned.

The style, of course, varies considerably according to character. Mr Brezhnev and his colourful predecessor, Nikita Khruschchev, were great huggers and kissers. Mr Gromyko, a colder personality, is rather bad at it.

So carefully calibrated is every formal welcome that a foreign visitor can immediately gauge his own importance in political or protocol terms. The rank of the person who meets him, whether he comes forward to the aircraft steps or stays put, the size of the car that takes him into town, the speed it is driven at are all subtly graded.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Old folk's drugs



A recent Royal College of Physicians report warned doctors to take care when prescribing drugs for old people. Many old folk are given too many drugs for the drugs for the wrong reasons, it argued.

Among other recommendations the report told doctors to tell any elderly person who needs a drug exactly why he or she needs it and when and how to take their pills. The report recommended written instructions to combat forgetfulness.

But research from America suggests that even if old people are told what to do they may physically not be able to tell one pill from another and that it is important to watch out for this pitfall too.

Peter Hurd and Julia Blevins from Arizona University asked a group of old people to distinguish between pairs of pills.

They found that some old people couldn't tell the between green and blue pills or white and yellow ones.

The reason for the difficulty the Americans report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, is probably that the lens of the eye tends to yellow with age making vision less clear, creating problems with glare and making it hard to distinguish blues and greens.

View from within the body

Last week the Prince of Wales opened a new scanner unit at the famous National Hospital in London.

The scanner, installed with the help of a grant of more than £1.m from the Multiple Sclerosis Society, uses the latest imaging technique, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, (NMR) to look inside the human body.

The theory of NMR was refined by Oxford chemist Sir Rex Richards in the 1960s. But it is only in the last four years or so that doctors have really started to appreciate its medical uses.

NMR has several advantages over other imaging techniques though it's not likely to replace them altogether.



Prince Charles: opened unit

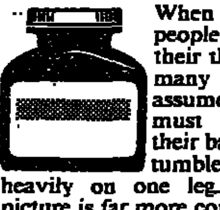
One bonus is that NMR is totally non-invasive and can be used safely again and again on the same person. Instead of using X-rays which pass through the body, as even sophisticated CAT scanners do, NMR uses magnetic fields around the body to creats a picture.

But the real advantage is that NMR can "see" soft tissues of the body, such as the brain or nerve cells, more easily and clearly than other scanners.

Also NMR can be "tuned" into different molecules in body tissues and used to follow the chemical reactions.

At the National Hospital doctors will be using NMR to watch what happens to the nerve cells of people who develop multiple sclerosis. For the first time this will allow them to see precisely where the damage occurs and to find out if a treatment is working.

Boning up



When elderly people break their thigh bones many people assume that they must have lost their balance and tumbled down heavily on one leg. But the picture is far more complicated. For some years surgeons have recognized that it is not because elderly people fall that they break their thighs but, rather, that their thighs collapse.

What is even more controversial is why the bones break: bones do become thinner with age – the technical term is osteoporosis – but whether they also become more fragile is open to question.

Many patients who have broken their thigh bones, or femoral necks, do not have osteoporosis, while many patients with advanced osteoporosis have never broken a leg.

Mr Zdenek Ralis, orthopaedic surgeon at the Welsh National School of Medicine, has made a remarkable discovery by examining bone tissue microscopically. Thinning does not in itself seem to be a problem. It is the quality of bones that deteriorates; but why some people's bones lose their strength remains a mystery.

Mr Ralis has managed to reverse the process of deteriorating quality (and thickness) by giving a group of patients a combination of fluoride, calcium and vitamin D. Over a 10-month period for a group of 32 patients, 75 per cent of the patients' bones become thicker and stronger.

He now wants to find out whether this improvement is permanent or whether to maintain strength the patients would have to take the treatment indefinitely.

Safe antihistamine

Antihistamines, the drugs people frequently take for hayfever and other allergic problems, usually come with a warning not to drive or use heavy machinery because the drugs are liable to make you sleepy.

It is a surprise therefore to find that until very recently no one has bothered to show scientifically that sedative antihistamines actually do impair driving skills.

But now doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham have done just that. And, more importantly, they have shown that one new antihistamine which doesn't make you sleepy is safe to take when driving.

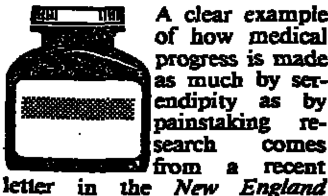
Dr Tim Betts and his colleagues asked twelve experienced female drivers to take an antihistamine which causes drowsiness.

The drivers, they report in the *BMJ* were aware that they felt drowsy and weren't driving as well after the drug but were unable to do anything about it.

On the antihistamine triludan however, the women drove just as well as when they hadn't taken any antihistamine at all.

Triludan is one of two antihistamines which don't cause sleepiness. It proved so poplar with doctors last year that it is now available from pharmacists without a prescription.

Herpes relief



A clear example of how medical progress is made as much by serendipity as by painstaking research comes from a recent letter in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Treatment of patients with cancer is often so severe that their natural defence mechanisms collapse under the onslaught of drugs. As a result, many patients suffer from opportunist infections like herpes which can be very painful and irritating.

Some antiviral preparation, similar to Herpid or Zovirax, have been used successfully, and one patient in Texas was given another drug – cimetidine – best known as an anti-stomach-ulcer drug but is also known to have immuno-stimulating properties. The drug was given to see if it could help restore the patient's own defence mechanism. To the surprise of the doctors, the patient's herpes zoster infection started to improve dramatically.

It is early days to say whether cimetidine will ever take a place in the normal treatment of herpes: it is a powerful drug and should not be taken casually. People who do suffer from cold sores or genital herpes should continue to use the anti-viral agents, like Herpid or Zovirax, as they are designed specifically for the job.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

THE TIMES DIARY

Spelling while Wales burns

As one with family connexions in a mid-Wales village rejoicing in the name of Penbontrhydybeddau. I can well understand the difficulties of the Clwyd fire brigade in actually finding their way to a fire. There are, for example, some 400 sizable places in Wales that have names beginning with Llan, and quite a number of them fall within the territory of the Clwyd firemen. Then there are all the Abers, Ponts, Pentres and Bryns to contend with. The brigade hs been finding that it requires good spelling, superb pronunciation and excellent map-reading to get its engines to the place when they are needed. Of course, as with everything else these days, the answer lies in computers. The Clwyd firemen are to have a new command and control system which, through the use of microprocessors, will give headquarters and 18 fire stations an instant fix on all those tongue-twisting names. At £300,000, the equipment doesn't come cheap, but at least it will stop the land of their fathers burning down befoe they can find it.

Write and wrong

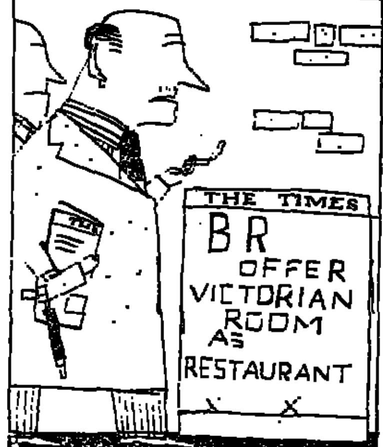
Anyone who thought a circulation war in Fleet Street could be nothing but a good deal for newspaper readers would have reckoned without the *Daily Express*. Express Newspapers has just been ticked off by the advertising authorities for making exaggerated and inaccurate claims for no fewer than three of its recent editorial offers, making a total of six complaints upheld against the group in the past year.

In one of the new cases the *Daily Express*, in its "Millionaires Club" promotion, offered £1 discounts on National Express luxury coach services without warning people that to take advantage of the offer they had to pay a £2 supplement on the ordinary fare. Spending £2 to save £1 is no way to become a millionaire. The other cases involved exaggerated claims for low-power electric spaceheaters, which complainants said would give no more heat than an ordinary light bulb, and slippers described as having cosy sheepskin inners which proved to be lined with man-made fibre. What was it that people used to say about not believing what you read in the papers?

Diplomaloo

The state of the lavatories at the ICA in The Mall, exclusively reported in this column, seems to have captured the sympathy of the nation. Letters and phone calls have been coming in to PHS daily, and now I have been privileged to see one of the designs for a new loo to be submitted to *Man* magazine, which is running a competition for the convenience of the ICA. Brenda Innes, of Bromley, has designed a circular, stainless steel, unisex lavatory and washroom which, she says, could be easily mass-produced and would probably be cheaper than the French-style superloo now appearing on London streets. Smaller than the building-site Portaloo, the Innes model is suitable for outside or indoor use, and, seeing that it's intended for the ICA, could be decorated with posters. There must be something about it: the design helped Brenda to get an Open University degree.

BARRY FANTONI



Along, no doubt, with the Victorian ham sandwiches

Succession story

Candidates for succession to Moss Evans as head of the country's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers', are keeping their eyes skinned for possible late entrants in the race. Their anxiety stems from the last election, in 1977, which Evans won. An outsider then was an ordinary union member named D. Thatcher who, although he came bottom of the poll, amassed a healthy 6,000 votes. T&G cynics believe Thatcher supporters thought they were voting for the husband of a future prime minister.

Out of touch

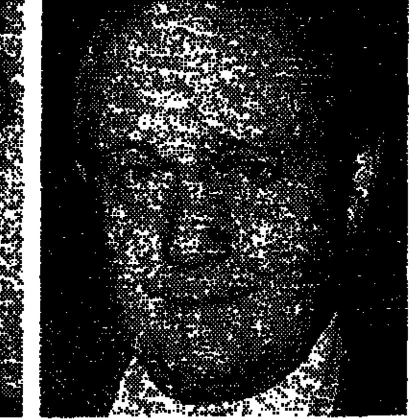
The spirited defence put up by British Telecom against charges of inefficiency in a recent *Which?* report cuts no ice with the International Institute of Communications. That worthy body – set up by telecommunications companies such as NTT of Japan and America's AT&T for the exchange of technology and discussion of policy – recently moved 100 yards to new offices in Tavistock House, London. Despite early warning of the move to the relevant authorities, the institute still has not a single working telephone or Telex and relies on the postman for contact with the outside world. One of the most active members of IIC is British Telecom.

PHS

The post-mortem body shop

Bernard Levin: the way we die now





Tam Dalyell, left, and Sir John Biggs-Davison: surprising advocates of transplant legislation

There is something exquisitely symmetrical in the fact that, while debate rages over the question of changing the method by which trade union members contribute to Labour Party funds from "contracting out" to "contracting in", Parliament should have discussed a proposal to change the method by which the organs of dead people are made available for transplant from "contracting in" to "contracting out". My own trade union has no political levy, so I am not directly affected by the trade union question: on the other hand, my own kidneys have been with me for a long time now, and before I am willing to contract them in, out or sideways I would like not only to examine the existing and proposed safeguards against my bits and pieces being subjected to a process of transplant *inter vivos* rather than *post mortem*, but also to think that before legislating for the change Parliament might rise to a level of debate considerably higher than it did earlier this week.

What is surprising is that the leading advocates of the change were Sir John Biggs-Davison and Mr Tam Dalyell. Sir John has shown himself to be a man who thinks much and deeply about ethical problems, presumably through his religious convictions, while as for Mr Dalyell, he may be barmy (come, come, Levin, you were not wont to be so mealy-mouthed – he *is* barmy), but however irritating his campaigns may be, they have always been motivated by moral principles: his obsession with the Belgrano, after all, was derived not from a thrifty horror at the thought of all that irrecoverable scrap metal but from a different kind of horror at the thought of all those irrecoverable human beings.

Yet they both spoke as though the question of what is, or should be, done with the bodies of the lately dead were of little more moment than that of what should be done with hair cut off at the barber's.

It is, of course, possible to take that very view, and it is clear that many in our society today do take it, though it is even more clear that ours is the first era in which it would have been taken by more than a very few, who would greatly have astonished their fellows. When we are dead, the argument runs, we have no more use for our bodies: if we have souls, they are independent of the earthly clay in which they are temporarily housed, and the clay itself, once the breath is out of it, might as well be recycled in the interests of those who need it. What is wrong with that?

First, and most obvious, there is the double problem of the safeguards and of what I have called, when discussing euthanasia, the Fallacy of the Altered Standpoint. The debate over the definition of death is by no means concluded, and it is hard to see how it ever will be, yet until we can say "this man is dead" with a certainty that is beyond even semantic dispute (let alone beyond the possibility that he may sit up and say "Oh, no, I'm not") the safeguards will always remain beneath a cloud, however small, of doubt. This is not just a matter of a mistake by the doctors: it concerns the very nature and meaning of death, and the fact that modern medical science can ensure that patients may remain *in articulo mortis* for months on end makes the importance of that nature and meaning greater, not less.

Now for the Altered Standpoint. Some of my best friends are doctors, and as far as I know very few of them are practising vampires. I do not envisage, should the controls on transplants be weakened, a sudden rush of ghouls in white coats to cut the hearts out of living bodies like so many Aztec priests. (Mind you, Ferdinand Sauerbruch was one of the greatest surgeons of modern times, but he ended mad as a hatter in a welter of butchery like a horror-film, protected by his august reputation.) But, difficult as it is for any man to say how he will behave in conditions he knows about, it is far more so for any of us to say how we would behave in conditions of which at present we have no experience. I do not believe that advocates of the legalization of euthanasia, and especially doctors who advocate it, would feel anything but revulsion and contempt at the suggestion that, were euthanasia available, they might start to see in a sinister light those incurably ill or senile whose lives are nothing but a misery to themselves as well as others. But that is the problem about altering standpoints: the view from the new one cannot be predicted, and it may contain sights previously undreamt of except in nightmares. And as with euthanasia, so with transplants; we simply do not know what an accident victim with extensive and irreversible brain-damage will look like on the operating table when the attitude to transplants has been reversed in the manner proposed in Parliament. *Facilis descensus Averno.*

But that leaves the most important aspect of what has been proposed. It was argued on all hands that, since the number of those making a direct commitment to the medical use of their bodies (by signing and carrying a "kidney card") is insufficient for those whose lives could be saved or prolonged by such use, a new method of increasing the number of bodies available must be introduced. But if the MPs had been talking about increasing the production of sugar-beet by providing low-interest loans for farmers willing to change the balance of their crops they could hardly have shown themselves more oblivious to the colossal weight that all peoples have always given to reverence for the dead.

The MPs did take in to account the grief of the abruptly bereaved, but only in terms of the difficulty or embarrassment of asking them for permission to extract the tastiest morsels from the remains of their loved ones: nobody stopped to think that that difficulty and embarrassment are directly connected with the instinctive horror so many people feel at the thought of the offhand disposal of a body they once loved, let alone that the instinctive horror is grounded in something deeper than did ever plummet sound. "There is evidence", said the Minister, "that people are strongly opposed to an opting out system." There is indeed: about 30,000 years of such evidence, and it is not to be dismissed without consideration of what it must mean for the nature of human beings and their most important beliefs.

There was another example of lack of imagination among the MPs who debated this subject. Many people, it was pointed out, do not bother to carry a kidney-card, even though they would have no objection to their bodies being used, because they are unable to envisage their abrupt death: "It is a human failing", said Mr Dalyell, "to imagine that other people are going to be killed, not oneself".

A human *failing*? That is no failing: it is an instinct that enshrines one of the most glorious truths about mankind, which is that our faces are set towards the sun of life, not the darkness of death. We do not go about the streets wondering whether we are going to be run over, though we know the figures for road accidents: even the soldier in battle does not believe that the next bullet has his number on it.

This life force is inseparably bound up with the feeling that a dead body must be handled with care, precisely because it once contained life. Those who think of dead bodies as no more than a repository of spare parts, like a car-breaker's yard, have failed to gauge the strength of that feeling and, in their very proper zeal for helping those whose suffering could be alleviated if more of their fellows would assign their bodies for alleviation, have made a profound mistake.

David Watt

Who knows what Chernenko thinks

My most vivid memory of the philosopher Bertrand Russell is of a small gathering in Oxford, more than 30 years ago, when he was asked by some smart alick what he, a lifelong atheist, would say to God if he discovered in the after life that He existed. The sage considered the matter with care, and apparently some distaste, for a moment or two and then replied in his inimitably pinched, aristocratic tones: "I should say to Him, 'You're a very shabby fellow; you didn't give us enough evidence'".

This utterence floated into my mind on Tuesday morning when I saw, side by side, the main headlines of *The Times* and *The Guardian*. This paper proclaimed: "Chernenko takes over with firm pledge on detente". Its contemporary declared: "Hopes of West are dashed by Chernenko". I mention this discrepancy not to poke fun at the distinguished correspondents over whose names these labels appeared. The point is simply that where the Soviet Union is concerned we usually do not have the wherewithal to provide even the most intelligent and experienced observers with an unchallengeable view.

The shabby Chernenko, like God, has played it safe and has carefully produced something for everyone in his initial pronouncements – a few sentences about imperialist aggression and war-mongering on the one hand and a few about his desire to follow in the steps of the peace-loving Mr Andropov on the other. From this, of course, absolutely nothing can be deduced – not even the strictly limited presumption that Chernenko is the kind of man who plays things safe. (What else would even the most daring Soviet leader have done under the circumstances?)

The truth is that nearly everything that has been written in the past week on this subject is speculation. The confident assertions – to take some of the most obvious examples – that Chernenko is a "stop-gap", that he is a cautious dove, that he is a cautious hawk, that he is a very dull dog, that Gromyko will call the shots in foreign policy anyway, are not entirely baseless.

The new leader's age, his reputation, his past performances all provide some limited ground for this sort of guesswork; but at the end of the day, guesswork is still what it is. After all, Chernenko is younger than President Reagan who, whatever else he may be, is no stop-gap, a lot younger than was Pope John XXIII when he shook another calcifying organization to its foundations. The fact that he was an apparently docile client, and indeed creation, of Brezhnev's may be a sign that he is irremediably second rate. But it may, for all we know, conceal the existence of a formidably strong and self-disciplined character who knew how to bide his time. Such things have been known before. Khrushchev, under Stalin, was a comic bit-player who emerged in his true colours only after the tyrant's death and at a very late stage in his own career.

Likewise it is far too early to say what the Chernenko foreign policy is going to be: for that matter it is too early to exert any serious influence upon it. There is, so far as I know, no concrete evidence that ties Chernenko in more than the most temporary and pragmatic fashion to Brezhnev's old enthusiasm for detente. Nor do we know how much he owes to the military – who passed him over in favour of Andropov last time round.

It is possible that they exacted some important reassurances from him before they changed their minds on this occasion; but perhaps they simply accepted him as the least of the available evils. All is uncertain. But in any case, whatever Chernenko's private views or collective inhibitions may be, the new regime cannot embark on a new course without a quite prolonged period of stocktaking – and this process cannot be more than highly provisional until it is safe to bet on who the next president of the United States is going to be. In other words, before Ronald Reagan is seen to be more or less home and dry (which cannot be before the summer, and may well not be before next November) all talk of summit meetings or resumed disarmament negotiations is pretty implausible.

Western governments know all this perfectly well, and it is therefore reasonable to enquire why they have all gone zooming off to Moscow for Andropov's funeral talking about peace. Mrs Thatcher, in deciding to go in person rather than sending the Foreign Secretary on his own, could

The credibility of the olive branch was damaged

not expect to do any serious business at such a time. She would also be a fool if she supposed that her very presence would send a "message" to Chernenko that might unlock the path to negotiations at a later date when other more direct approaches would not. No, the real audience for these dramatic gestures is not in Moscow but in British public opinion. The British, like other western governments, is reflecting a clamorous desire for better East-West relations and is doing its best to be seen by its electors in a moderate and relatively amenable posture vis à vis the Soviet Union – without really knowing where this may lead in practice, or when.

Put in this way, this may sound an undignified and even dishonest kind of operation. But before one leaps to criticize, it is necessary to remember that one of the most difficult and important tasks facing west European politicians at present is to maintain a stance on East-West matters that the ordinary voter can support with some enthusiasm. This has not been easy in the past 18 months because of the row over the cruise missiles. Nato's famous two-track decision (negotiate with the Russians and prepare to deploy the missiles if negotiations fail) was supposed to satisfy everybody because, like the eagle on the seal of the United States, it had an olive branch in one hand and arrows in the other.

Unfortunately, thanks to the rhetoric, and to some extent the policies, of the Reagan administration, the credibility of the olive branch was damaged, and with it the traditional bipartisan support for defence expenditure and even for Nato itself.

It may seem paradoxical to justify armament by offering disarmament, but to the practical politician it looks perfectly sensible – and incidentally not at all dishonest since disarmament, however difficult and unlikely it may be to achieve, is a perfectly genuine desire. The long and short of it is that Mrs Thatcher was right to go to Moscow, for her own good reasons. But she will be wrong if she imagines that she has had much effect on the Russians; and she will be mad if she thinks that she or anyone else yet has the foggiest idea whether Mr Chernenko has a mind of his own, still less what is going on inside it.



A US soldier stands guard over Cuban prisoners at Point Salinas airstrip after the invasion

Secret steps that led to invasion

Four months after US troops moved into Grenada, Winston Churchill MP reassesses the island's dilemma

"Our best head teachers were dismissed from their posts, and Cubans, even Russians, were brought in to teach in our schools. What these chaps thought they could teach our children, goodness knows!" So spoke Sir Paul Scoon, Grenadian Governor-General and himself a teacher, explaining the extent to which Grenada had been dominated by Cuba before the US action last October. The traditional British curriculum, even down to primary school level, was displaced by the introduction of Marxist and revolutionary textbooks imported from Cuba. Police stations throughout the island were closed down and many of the top policemen retired, their role being taken over by a 530-strong People's Revolutionary Army, backed by a 1,500-man militia.

Following Maurice Bishop's arrest on October 12, events moved swiftly. On October 18 a crowd of several thousand of the prime minister's supporters gathered in the capital, St George's, to demand his release.

One week later the prime minister, three of his ministers and two trade union leaders, were machine-gunned to death inside Fort George, the eighteenth century fortress which from its hill-top vantage-point dominates the tiny capital and its anchorage.

The governor-general appealed for outside intervention once the prime minister and his principal ministers had been assassinated, his position having become perilous. He was installed in Government House and protected by a single armed guard on the gate and a detachment of half a dozen policemen with two revolvers between them. "I would not have wanted any of those PRA chappies around the place. They were an indisciplined lot", observed Sir Paul in his quaint style of speech, more redolent of a British colonial governor than of a Grenadian.

Mystery and not a little disbelief have surrounded the meeting which took place in Grenada on the morning of Sunday, October 23, between the governor-general and David Montgomery, Britain's Deputy High Commissioner in Barbados. Both Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mrs Thatcher have denied that at the meeting any request was made for British military intervention. Sir Paul confirmed that this was indeed the case: "Time was all important and we had no choice but to call upon those already in the area who were able to respond swiftly to our request." However, as he explained, he did not even make any *direct* appeal to the Americans in the two weeks between the arrest of the prime minister and the American landings which took place on Tuesday, October 25. All his communications were with other Caribbean leaders.

"East German technicians had been put in to control the central telephone exchange and it was impossible to make direct-dial calls outside the island, although I could receive calls direct from overseas", Sir Paul explained. "For this reason I had to be very guarded in what I said and had to go through two or even three other people, in order to get the person I wished to speak to to call me." In this way Sir Paul was able to keep in touch with other Caribbean leaders, including Tom Adams, Premier of Barbados, and Mrs Eugenia Charles of Dominica, who played the key role in conveying Sir Paul's guarded, but none the less, urgent request for help to President Reagan.

But if Sir Paul Scoon did not invite Britain to participate in the liberation of the island, it is equally clear that Tom Adams, the prime minister of Barbados, *did*. On the Friday, October 21, and again in the course of the weekend, he requested through Giles Bullard, our newly-arrived High Commissioner in Bridgetown, British participation in the invasion which was already in preparation and, specifically, the dispatch of an SAS team to rescue the governor-general. "I thought it would be appropriate if Her Majesty's representative on the island were to be safeguarded by British forces", the prime minister observed when I met him on Barbados. "We hoped it might be possible", he added, "for those British forces already in the area, namely the Harriers in Belize and the Royal Navy ships in the Caribbean to participate as well. My sole regret is that I did not speak to Mrs Thatcher personally on the telephone. Unfortunately there was no secure telephone link available. When, by the Monday, the American military realized that the operation would be exclusively theirs, they were delighted."

The first Sir Paul Scoon knew of the invasion being actually under way was on the Tuesday morning the US forces attacked the Cuban positions around Point Salines. The roar of several slow, low-flying planes was heard overhead in the darkness. Sir Paul took me out on to the terrace of Government House, which commands a panoramic view over St George's, the new Point Salines airport and the southern part of the island, whose volcanic hills covered in lush tropical vegetation plunge down to the silver sand and turquoise waters of the Caribbean. Gesturing out towards Point Salines he recalled: "A great deal of ground-fire and anti-aircraft fire seemed to be directed at the American transport planes which were firing back. At dawn, a large helicopter arrived over Government House and attempted to land on the tennis court, but the overhang of the trees was too great and the helicopter's rotors too large for it to do so."

It is clear that the helicopter was intended to scoop up Sir Paul and his family and evacuate them to safety. As it was, the best that could be done was for a dozen American soldiers, armed only with light weapons and limited ammunition, to be dropped down a rope to the grounds of Government House where their presence immediately attracted the attention of two armoured personnel-carriers of the Grenadian PRA, which proceeded to subject Government House and the surrounding area to periodic bursts of cannon fire. The governor-general and his family took refuge in the basement while the small American detachment did their best to protect them, though they lacked weapons heavy enough to knock out the armoured vehicles. It was not until dawn the next day, after a delay of 24 hours during which the lives of Sir Paul and his family were in considerable peril, that they could be evacuated from the grounds of Government House and were able to meet up with an advancing American column.

In the wake of events in Grenada, Tom Adams believes the time has come for the nations of the eastern Caribbean to consider recreating, in some form at least, a federation of the West Indies, in which would be established joint army, police and internal security services – possibly backed by British and US naval forces and intelligence in the background – to safeguard the region from subversion or outside attack in the future.

The author is Conservative MP for Davyhulme



Sir Paul Scoon, left, whose position was perilous, and Tom Adams, who asked for the SAS

Philip Howard

Love's labour's well and truly lost

Among other things, Shakespeare was a splendid hack in a hurry. He never blotted out a line. It is not necessary to go as far as envious Ben Jonson, and observe, "Would he had blotted a thousand." But there is a certain *Schadenfreude* for the rest of us when the Bard bluders, and should have blotted.

One of his most famous bloomers is the stage direction in *The Winter's Tale*: "Bohemia. A desert country near the sea." For generations odious swots in the front row have taken pleasure in waving their hands in the air, and saying, "Please Sir, Bohemia is nowhere near the sea, being entirely surrounded by land." That is the classic example of an anchorism, the error of putting an action, scene, or character in a place where it does not belong. It is an encouragement to lesser hacks, when they commit some blunder in print, and triumphant or outraged letters flood in pointing it out, to remember that even Shakespeare nodded. Good stuff, of course, Sweet Swan of Avon. You could say: "The stream of Time, which is continually washing the dissoluble fabrics of other poets, passes without injury by the adamant of Shakepeare." But the lad was unsound on the geography of Bohemia.

Are we quite sure of this? I was until the other day, when learned Richmond Herald, who also enjoys the backwoods and byways of history, raised the matter. Richmond points out that Premsyl Ottocow of Bohemia (1233-1278) married Margaret, daughter and ultimately heiress of Leopold VI (Babenberg), Margrave of Austria. Premsyl first of all occupied Austria and Styria, and then briefly added Çarinthia and Carniola, to his empire. So, for a brief period in the thirteenth century, the Kingdom of Bohemia did reach the Adriatic, and could be accurately described as a Country near the Sea.

Premsyl is the king after whom Konigsberg, in what was to become Prussia, was named. His seaside connexion did not last. He was killed in battle by the Hapsburgs in 1278, and that established their dynasty in Austria. Bohemia reverted to its original land-locked state.

I very much doubt whether Shakespeare knew anything about this, even though the nineteenth-century schoolmaster at Stratford used to point out his desk to credulous visitors, and say: "William was a studious lad; and selected that corner of the room so that he might not be disturbed by the other boys."

In any case, it doesn't matter. The works of Shakespeare are not textbooks of geography or history. Bohemia is located not on the map, but, like Venice of the *Merchant*, Athens of the *Dream*, Elsinore, and the other places, in the wild country of the poet's imagination.

The classic anecdote of treating Shakespeare as an authority on what he was not concerns the First Duke of Marlborough. He was talking to Bishop Burnet, the historian, and surprised him by advancing anachronisms, anachorisms, and other strange matters of fact. The bishop, not the most searching of scholars, whose *History of his own Times* was described by Johnson as mere chit-chat, was astonished. He asked Marlborough where he had picked up his novel version of history. The duke, equally surprised on his side to be asked that question by so knowing a man in history as the bishop, replied, "Why, don't you remember? It is the only English history of those that I ever read, in Shakespeare's plays".

Maybe his history was shaky in parts. We are going to revise his geography marks from gamma to beta minus. But he's more fun to read than history or geography.

لا تخرج من الاصل

A look at P & O's new £100m luxury cruise liner which will be "floated out" today at Wartsila's covered shipyard in Helsinki. Delivery is due in October.

Royal Princess

A SPECIAL REPORT

JUST as the Princess of Wales is seen by many as a symbol of youthful resurgence in British public life, so the brilliant new P & O liner which will be named after her at the launch next November can be seen as a sign of resurgence of British cruising.

Britain invented cruising: more from necessity than choice. No other country in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had such a scatter of far-flung colonies, and such a huge fleet of passenger and cargo liners to transfer people and goods between them.

Most of these trades – to India and China, Australia and New Zealand, the Middle East, Africa, and South and North America – were seasonal, some highly so; and cruising evolved as an alternative source of employment when the liners were not needed for trade.

After the last war cargo became more and more separated into specialised cargo ships – but at the same time aircraft were making ever-greater inroads into passenger traffic on the old world routes, and liners concentrated more and more on that aspect of their business that had formerly been a stopgap.

The real trauma came in the early 1960s when P & O's Canberra and Oriana, and Cunard's QE2 were built.

All three ships were re-designed during planning, and ended much more cruise-ships than they began. But for many years after that P & O hesitated to take the ultimate step to a 100 per cent cruiseship with no line voyage commitments whatever.

This was a market developed primarily by those inspired shipping entrepreneurs, the Norwegians, who built a score or more of modest custom-built cruise ships, mostly around 20,000 tons for about 600 passengers, through which the Caribbean cruise market based in Miami really took off in the 1960s and 1970s.

Cunard jumped in with their Countess and Princess; but P & O, still Britain's (and indeed the world's) leading cruise line, continued to ponder, content in the 1970s to buy time by buying existing ships and with them an established foothold in the Californian market.

Though P & O cruising had been consistently profitable, the profits were never big enough it seemed until 1982, to justify the massive cost of a big new cruisership like the Royal Princess. Capital costs alone, at more than £100m, require earnings of about £60,000 a day to service: and operating costs – pay for 600 staff, fuel, repairs and maintenance, insurance, food and drink, port charges, etc – come to substantially more.

What this adds up to is a charge of around £200 a day per passenger to make a viable propostion on what is (unusually among commercial projects) highly labour – as well as highly capital intensive.

Some 20 million people in the US can afford to pay those kind of prices for a holiday, researchers found, of whom some four million are ready and willing to do so on a Sea Princess cruise. As P & O's three existing California-based ships carry only about 100,000 passengers a year the scope is clearly considerable – provided Royal Princess offers what the Americans want. What is that?

The prime requirements is top-class accommodation and service: and here Royal Princess clearly scores with for the first time on any ship every cabin offering a sea view. A cabin with a porthole (these days a picture window) has always been highly in demand but in former days, when passengers had to share the hull with cargo, with bigger engines than today, and with bulkier equipment and services, only a minority of passsengers were able to get it. For this they paid premium rates.

Two earlier ways of trying to give inside cabins a glimpse of daylight and the sea were the "Bibby" cabin which extended a narrow arm out to the ship's side, often ending in a small porthole and a washbasin; and the greatly improved Canberra "courtyard" cabin, where a batch of six cabins look out on to a shared courtyard with a large sea view.

In the Royal Princess all such devices are swept away in favour of a panoramic view of the sea, sky, and ports of call from every cabin, in many cases from its own private verandah. It should be enormously popular, and is backed up with other cabin features dsesigned specially for the US market.

ROYAL PRINCESS SPECIFICATIONS

Builder: Wartsila Helsinki Shipyard
Flag: British
Classification: Lloyds
Length (max): 232 metres
Breadth (moulded): 29.2 metres
Draught (dwl): 7.8 metre
Speed: 22 knots
Passengers: 1,200
Passenger cabins: 600
Crew: 500 (approx)
Gross tonnage: 40,000
Decks: Ten
Intended service: Worldwide

● Every cabin will have 24-hour service (mainly English or Mexican stewards); full-size bathroom with tub-bath as the Americans call it; sophisticated furnishings of the kind to be found in a luxury Californian home – soft colours, deep-pile carpet, individual works of art, classical and modern; and, needless to say, individual air-conditioning and multi-channel TV with video.

● Second, people want interesting places to visit, and plenty of them. Not for the American vacationer the P&O "posh" pattern of old, with days or weeks of restful idleness at sea, punctuated only occasionally with time in port. They want to see somewhere different every day. Royal Princess will provide such excitement for much of the year in Alaska (with fly-cruises via Vancouver) whose attractions include Skagway where the Gold Rush started, Juneau the state capital, and Sitka, the old Russian capital; at other times south of California at Acapulco, and such rapidly expanding resorts as Mazatlan, Puerto Vallata, and Cabo San Lucas; or yet again on long trips to Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand, Fiji, Tahiti, Hongkong, Singapore and Japan.

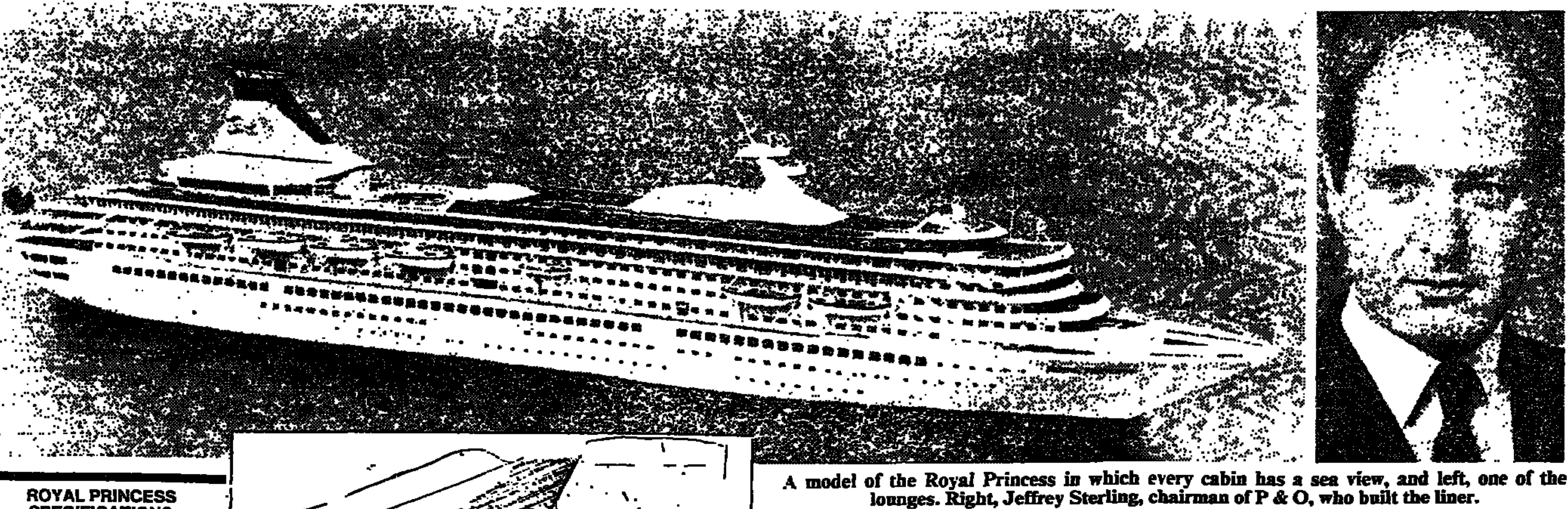
● Third, the American vacationer wants entertaining – with top-class Broadway style shows. This Royal Princess will provide together with Las Vegas-type gambling, dancing (ballroom and disco), classical music, lectures and indoor activities of all kinds.

● Fourth, top-class eating; and this will be Italian-style on Royal Princess with international cuisine featuring exotic table catering – carvery and flambée trolleys – provided in the main by Italian chefs and waiters.

● Fifth, something of an obesssion in the US at the moment: people want to return home fit and rested rather than raddled by over-indulgence: and to help them Royal Princess will have a huge deck area for lounging in the sun and gazing at the sea; four swimming pools and two jacuzzis; and a comprehensive health centre. Instead of the huge steam turbines which account for a quarter of Canberra's operating costs. Royal Princess will have four small diesels spending only five per cent and providing a high degree of control and flexibility of operation.

Nothing that human foresight can provide to make Royal Princess a success has been forgotten. All she needs now is what every ship needs – Good Luck!

Michael Baily
Transport Editor



A model of the Royal Princess in which every cabin has a sea view, and left, one of the lounges. Right, Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P & O, who built the liner.

The pride and pleasure

Jeffrey Sterling, a leading figure in the property world, became chairman of P & O last November at the height of the take-over battle with Cunard-/Tralfalgar House; presumably because the P & O board thought him the best man to fight off the bid. Aged 49, he is clearly a formidable entrepreneur, but also a man of culture and compassion: he is chairman of the Royal Ballet School and vice chairman of Motability, which helps the disabled. Here he talks to Michael Baily, our Transport Editor.

Michael Baily: Why did you become Chairman of P & O.

Jeffrey Sterling: Because I was asked. I had gained an insight into the group as a non-executive director. It is a fascinating company not only because of its standing and tradition but also because of its spread of operations. Its businesses range from virtually all forms of surface transport to the Bovis housebuilding and construction companies, and its international base adds not only an interesting complexity but also an immediate dimension of opportunity. A unique combination – history and opportunity.

MB: How do you see the prospect?

JS: One must beware of oversimplification. I believe our future will be as every bit exciting as our past. We have already embarked upon the process of accelerating into this decade and, strategically, the latter half of this century. P&O, like any other enterprise, is about people – their quality, their attitudes, their motivations. There is a will to succeed in P&O at all levels; a positive response to new ideas. As chairman I see the key to the future as motivation; surely that must be a priority of every manager.

P&O with its national and international spread of businesses is poised and well-balanced. It has weathered massive recession in shipping and done so successfully. That company ethos I referred to is the engine, as it were, of its development and motivation is the fuel.

If we could identify future economic trends and international market movements we would have no problems. We can't. However, what we can do is make informed judgments about possible trends and be thoroughly prepared to move with them.

The shipping industry is a classic example of that situation. Relatively large, long term capital investments that are very sensitive to world trade cycles. An added complexity is that the industry itself is multi-facceted. The rolling recession of the 1970s is evidence of that. Cargo liner trades, passenger trades, the gas trades all had their own cycles. There was no simultaneity. Thus timing becomes crucial.

MB: Has cruising a good future? Is Royal Princess a good investment?

JS: First cruising. In international terms it is a growth market, very much part of the leisure industry. The north American sector is massive and contains a big potential for growth. We have, in Princess Cruises, a well established market position in that area; a fleet of three cruise ships – Royal Princess will make it four.

It is a very competitive market place. Remember, the leisure market is governed by discretionary spending. Growth relies upon disposable income. We operate at the top end of that market. Thus product design, quality and service are essentially important to us. I believe a company should concentrate on what it is good at – P&O is unequalled at running ships and taking care of people.

As a cruise operator we are world leaders in all three of our main markets – Europe, USA and Australia. P&O ships like Sea Princess, Canberra and Oriana are household names synonymous with luxury and world travel.

Why the cruisers keep on coming back

The average cost of a package holiday in the Mediterranean to the British holidaymaker is £175-£250. The average cost of a motoring holiday in Europe for a family of four (two adults and two children) whether packaged or not is about £500. The average cost of a cruise is £1000-£1200. A cruise costs about five times as much as a holiday in a beach hotel, and that no doubt accounts for the small share of the holiday market occupied by cruising.

Of some fourteen million Britons who will take a holiday abroad this year, under 100,000 will cruise. About half the total will take package holidays of one sort or another and about twelve million will holiday in Europe via the car ferries.

Yet if cruising attracts a necessarily small clientele it is a devoted one. Market research shows that those who take a cruise keep on doing it, not every year but once every so often.

Package holidays generally attract little or no brand loyalty. Holidaymakers who were particularly pleased with Thomas Cook or Thomson one year will doubtless look to them first the following year; but generally the package holiday-maker feels free to shop around afresh each year, as to both operator and type of holiday.

That is not the case with cruising. Some 25-35 per cent of the cruise passengers have made a voyage previously, and in the case of P&O this rises to 60 per cent – an amazing degree of brand loyalty.

Why do they do it? Cunard in their Atlantic advertisements used to say that "getting there is half the fun." In other words, if you must go to New York (or Europe) why not enjoy the journey as much as the destination? Take your wife, be pampered for five days in elegant surroundings among people who, like yourself, enjoy a taste of luxury living.

But the Atlantic is not always kind, and the jet does it so much faster. By the 1970s P&O's slogan "The holiday that has everything" was more apposite. Ships had ceased, with a few very minor exceptions, to offer transportation, and had become a part of the leisure market.

They did so initially largely to those who had enjoyed sea voyages in their previous role – former colonials, top businessmen and entrepreneurs; people who liked being waited on in an exclusive atmosphere; an atmosphere that excluded the package holiday crowds.

For a time cruising went down market, and tried to attract the holiday camper with a kind of "knees up Mother Brown" atmosphere. But it was not a success – partly because providing cruises is an inherently costly business, and it was impossible to get package cruises down to a price the market would stand and still make a profit.

So cruising resumed its place at the head of the holiday market; but with marked attempts by cruise operators to provide something more than the sea voyage and attentive service erstwhile voyagers had enjoyed: night clubs, concerts, deck sports, entertainments and activities of all kinds so that, if you did not want to while away your time sipping cocktails and spotting dolphins there were plenty of other things to do.

The Royal Princess is merely the latest of a dozen or so new or converted cruise-ships to arrive on the international market this year and last, and the massive investment involved suggests a confidence by the operators that there is a lasting future for it.

The attempt to attract more custom by going down market has been abandoned. But there is a definite trend towards attracting the young and fancy-free especially in the United States where all manner of cut-price incentives are available to woo the floating holiday voter to make a last-minute decision to take a cruise and make sure the ships sail reasonably full.

Cruising remains an expensive holiday, as the accompanying table shows. But provided operators keep the standards high there should be a huge market to be tapped as both wealth and leisure continue to increase.

Michael Baily
Transport Editor

What it costs to go cruising

Cruises from UK ports	Fly-cruise from UK
£300 four days Cunard QE2	£400 7-day Chandris or Siosa
£400 CTC (Russian) 14 days in low-rated cabin	£500 7-day Vacationer
£500 CTC 15-day cruise	£600 7-day Intercruise La Palma or ten-day Costa
£600 CTC14-day bettergrade cabin 7-day QE2	£1,000 13-day CTC, or P & O Swan Hellenic
£700 8-day QE2	£1,100 14-day P & O
£800 14-day CTC 8-day QE2	£1,400 14-day Cunard, Royal Viking
£1,000 12-day QE2 14-day P & O	**Caribbean Fly-cruise**
£1,100 15-day Cunard or Royal Viking Line	£700 9-day Bahama Cruise Lines
£1,700 38-day Polish Ocean Lines; 15-day Royal Viking	£900 9-day Borwegian Caribbean
£2,000 26-day P & O	£1,000 9-day Royal Caribbean
	£1,400 15-day Cunard
	£1,400 15-day Cunard

From blankets to lifeboats, toothbrush holders to bottle crushers – the range and diversity of British made equipment installed in the Royal Princess is considerable.

But while many British companies have fought against fierce international competition and won orders to equip the Finnish made vessel, the value of the contracts awarded by Wartsila is still only about £5m.

Eating, walking and sleeping British

When P & O took the controversial decision to place the order for the vessel with a Finnish yard, it was hoped that much of the adverse comment would be dampened by major contracts for marine equipment being placed with British companies.

A spokesman said recently: "We think the present level of orders won by British suppliers is fairly respectable. They have won contracts against widespread competition and have been quite successful. In the end, the *final* choice was going to be made by the Finns on the best price and the best quality."

The £5m figure covers contracts awarded to 36 companies, some for just a few hundred pounds. Some are for glamorous electronics, others for basic equipment that are nonetheless welcome.

Wynstruments of Gloucester, for example, which specialises in marine window wipers, will be providing six units of their heavy duty model equipment that passengers certainly will hope never to see in operation.

The ship will be equipped with 40 25-person liferafts supplied by RFD Inflatables of Godalming, Surrey, and eight lifeboats and two rescue boats from the Survival Craft division of Gosport-based Watercraft.

Chief difference with traditional lifeboats is that those of the Royal Princess will have enclosed fore and aft sections and be equipped with portable canopies for the centre. Two of the boats are fitted with British made Marconi radio stations.

The ship's communications system is to be the Mascot 2000 of STC International Marine, said to be the only British satellite communications terminal approved by the International Maritime Satellite Organization.

STC's system, designed, developed and produced at the company's plant at Mitcham, Surrey, provides two-way voice, telex, facsimile and data transmission. The ship's main radio station will incorporate a new solid state transmitter/receiver which, said STC, is the first of its type to be used at sea.

Another advanced STC product is the automatic direction finder controlled by micro processor, which analyses radio direction beacon signals and gives an immediate longitude-/latitude position. In total the STC contracts are worth £110,000.

Tyneside, one of Britain's traditional but depressed shipbuilding areas, may not be building the Royal Princess but at least it is being thrown a few crumbs in the form of the £113,000 contract for laminates which have been won by Formica at Norths Shields.

Manu Kaluste, the fabrication subsidiary of Taivetaso, Formica's Finnish distributor, is making the furniture and has used the mahogany or teak-look laminate on the state room dressing tables, writing desks, wardrobes, TV shelves, window pelmets and bedheads.

Royal Princess passengers will also walk on, eat from, sleep on and wash under British equipment.

Tankard Carpets of Bradford and BMK of Kilmarnock have provided the floor coverings for the ship's cabins and public areas. The high grade Wilton was specified for Tankard which is producing a 9ft wide broadloom with 90per cent of the wool coming from English sheep.

BMK's order is for 9,000 square metres of mostly tufted broadloom carpet.

Parkin Silversmiths of Sheffield, with 275 years of cutlery-making experience, will supply 40,000 pieces of restaurant silverware, while a similar number of tableware pieces will come from Steelite International of Stoke-on-Trent.

Charterweave, an Oxfordshire company, has won an order to provide 4,000 blankets most made from Merino wool, and Metlex Industries of Croydon, Surrey, is producing 4,600 chrome plated bathroom fittings.

British expertise is cathodic protection for ships' hulls and is recognised with the use by Wartsila of an automatic system from the Morgan Berkeley Marine division of Corrintec of Winchester.

The Royal Princess contract is worth £7,500. The Corrintec system involves the application of an electrical charge over the whole immersed surface of the hull. This eliminates corrosion and helps to prevent roughness thereby enabling the ship to maintain the minimum drag resistance.

In bad weather passengers should particularly appreciate the Gyrofin stabilizers produced by Sperry Marine Systems of Camberley, Surrey. Each fin weighs 77 tons, and has a 90 horsepower unit which provides 80 tonnes lift at 18 knots. This, says the company, should reduce the ship's roll up to 90 per cent.

Edward Townsend

No room for nostalgia in this floating hotel

To the hardy British, brought up to believe they are members of a seafaring nation, sailors all and proud of generations of shipbuilding skills, the interior design of the Royal Princess will provoke, at best, incredulity.

The surprise will be heightened by the knowledge that this floating hotel is aimed not at mid-western America, with its image of staid conservatism, but at laid-back, fun loving west coasters.

P&O, on the other hand, know better. Nostalgia is out when it comes to Americans' choice of an ocean cruise. Creaking timbers, bunks, port holes and the like are all very well for the *Onedin Line* but not for today's big spending vacationers.

The Royal Princess, while plush, expensive, superbly comfortable and cosseting, will, nevertheless, reflect from the inside the bland sameness of the international hotel.

Apart from the gentle rolling of the ship – and most of the time even that should be undetectable thanks to the stabilizers – passengers (or perhaps they should be called residents) will have to remind themselves that they are at sea and not in one of those faceless, impersonal edifices of international tourism that can be found in capital cities around the world.

The sales brochure for the maiden voyage uses adjectives chosen, no doubt, to impress rather than entice. It is, says P&O, "the ship destined to become a legend": various bits of it are described in the blurb as elegant, spacious, lavish, panoramic, gracious.

The ultra modern design in a ship that has a startling and unique lay-out, is the work of a Norwegian, Njal Eide, one of the world's most experienced cruise ship interior decorators. He scoffs at suggestions that the Royal Princess will reflect little that is nautical and stresses the overall aim to achieve a fashionable, quality image.

He reminds the traditionalist that the big Atlantic liners of the past had few interior indications of sea voyaging and were often equipped with heavy, overpowering furniture and fittings designed for houses. "Some of them were like cathedrals," he says.

"The product brief in this case was to incorporate in the decor a West Coast image combined with good basic English and European cruise ship traditions."

The unusual configuration of the ship's facilities and the provision of up-to-date luxuries like two jacuzzis, clearly assisted in the achievement of an impression of up-market modernity.

All of the cabins on the Royal Princess are located outboard and have large picture windows, a bath with shower, television, refrigerator and "environmental control". A private balcony, a sort of mini personal deck, is provided for 152 of the more pricey cabins and staterooms.

The ship will have almost two acres of public deck – more, says P&O, than any other cruise ship afloat. The main deck extends the whole length and breadth of the ship. Here are located all the main meeting places, including a two-storey show lounge and casino, with the middle section built between two promenades where there are a cafe, library, card room, shopping area, boutiques and children's play room. The restaurant is on the deck below.

To judge from the mock-ups and drawings, it would appear that the interior design will not be breathtaking. But the uncluttered simplicity of its lines and forms and its muted conservatism will undoubtedly appeal in its main market.

Getting the feeling on board of executive luxury

The cabins are decorated in pastel colours, a departure from the strong contrasts often adopted on European cruise ships, and there is a greater degree of colour coordination.

This appears to have been essential because of the strict requirement to use materials that are non-flammable "families", used, for cost reasons, throughout the ship and which restrict the designer's freedom.

Mr Eide was able, however, to use some real teak (although it is only veneer) and brass, albeit for cosmetic purposes. And in the bathrooms, for example, the surfaces around the basins are all solid marble to give a feeling of exclusive luxury.

To give an "English" feel to the cabins, the beds are provided with skirts, which heightens the hotel look as well as diminishing any sense of ship's bunks. Mr Eide was also able to use considerable amounts of woollen textiles which, again, he hopes will soften the use of laminates and metals.

The spaciousness and calmness of a big hotel is further accentuated by the distribution throughout the ship of 175 large tubs containing almost 1,700 plants.

Another part of the design brief was to allow for optimum flexibility in the public areas. As Mr Eide puts it: "The idea is to start at 10 in the morning with a room for playing bingo and end up at night with a fashionable and beautiful show lounge."

Equally, the observation lounge, with its "nice, gentle" daytime aura, becomes, with the skilful use of lights, a heaving disco at night.

"There is nowhere else to go on a ship so it is very important to create places for different moods without making it look cheap."

The main feature of the ship, on the main deck, is the central hall, designed by Mr Eide to be the principal meeting point, "a place through which people drift, like a hotel lounge or foyer."

It is built in two storeys with a central, circular opening and staircase leading down to the restaurant. In the centre is the ship's single externally-commissioned piece of sculpture, a spiral design by an English sculptor whose identity is being kept secret by P&O for unveiling as a marketing aid in the summer.

The pictures hung in the cabins and public areas have all been commissioned from English artists and are of modern abstract design. They were chosen after Mr Eide and his team had scoured a number of London art galleries.

Seascapes and pictures of stately sailing clippers or the liners of the past were deliberately rejected. "We felt that traditional art would be too harsh for the soft treatment given to the rest of the ship," said Mr Eide.

Edward Townsend

● **The style and comfort aboard the Royal Princess. Left, the Princess court, one of the rooms for easy lounging with a sea view. Above: an outside de-luxe room with veranda, telephone and TV. Apart from a gentle rolling passengers will have to remind themselves that they are at sea.**

See TV for what's on tonight's menu

The advanced technology incorporated in the Royal Princess will not only make passengers' lives safer and more comfortable but also insulate them, should they so desire, from the unsavoury aspects of the world.

Cocooned in their plush hotel-like cabins, these adventurers will be able to bask in the ultra-modern air conditioning and watch the scene outside the ship on the multi-channel TV.

Without moving from their non-flammable armchairs, the passengers will experience, via the small screen, the wonders of the Panama Canal or a Pacific sunset.

It is easy, however, to poke fun at the holiday demands of well-off Americans. P&O clearly has spent much time and effort in exploiting technology to the full to satisfy its customers' tastes and to provide a vessel that is cost-saving, efficient and profitable.

To start in the bowels of the ship, the least glamorous, but possible the most important, technological advance is in the engine room. Here are installed the four main Wartsila Pielstick engines arranged in pairs, each of which develops 9,900 hp, operates through economisers and burns high viscosity, low efficiency fuel.

The significance is that the engines, which also generate electric power for the entire ship, and the two boilers utilise the cheap bottom-of-the-barrel "dirty" oil. David McKee, P&O Cruises' technical manager in Southampton, said: "The fuel these engines can cope with is not even on the market yet. It is the sort that the experts tell us we will be pleased to accept in a few years' time.

By using the main diesel engines to drive the alternators, the load on the engines can be kept at optimum level. At least one engine, therefore, will be running at all times driving one alternator – sufficient to power the ship.

P&O says that on the new ship, fuel charges should be only 5 per cent of total operating costs against about 25 per cent for the Canberra.

A high degree of advanced electronic systems is being installed in the engine room so that it could operate automatically. Unmanned engine rooms are not permitted on passenger vessels but, said Mr McKee, the equipment would enable much greater efficiency and control.

The air conditioning system is claimed to be the most advanced and efficient available and the emphasis on running cost reduction for the ship has led to a large amount of insulation for the inside skin of the vessel and double glazing.

Exhaust heat from the engines will not be wasted. It will be taken up by the economisers which are installed in the funnel, and not as normal on the engines themselves, to produce steam for heating.

On the electronics front, the Royal Princess will be equipped with the latest, British designed and made satellite communications system. This will allow passengers to make and receive "secure" business and personal telephone calls as easily, it is claimed, as if they were on shore.

A large IBM computer will deal with all aspects of the ship's operation and any activity that generates money sales. All transactions like bar bills, laundry and hairdressing charges will be added automatically to customers' accounts.

The television system is particularly novel. All the cabins will have an eight-channel colour TV which, when in port, can broadcast up to four of the local station programmes. There are also two video channels and a live, on-board channel.

On-board cameras will relay to passengers a variety of events including water sports from the swimming pool or simply the view of the outside world.

The system also has an advanced teletext facility, with a large number of pages, that will enable passengers to call up a variety of information ranging from details of the next port of call to the evening's dinner menu, and even the latest bargains in the ship's shops.

Wartsila's unique design for the Royal Princess, with all of the cabins situated on the outside and at the top of the vessel, has enabled the centre of the ship to take the air conditioning machinery, staircases, lifts and all the ducts for wiring and pipes. All these services are situated between the fore and aft bulkheads and allow maintenance to be done without passenger disturbance.

E. T.

Snowfalls do not stop work

The shipyard: ready on time

Wartsila, the builder of the Royal Princess, is not one of the biggest shipbuilders in the world, but is first in two important and profitable sectors, luxury cruise liners and Arctic vessels, including ice-breakers.

"We do not try to compete in the field of simple and inexpensive ships", says Martin Saarikangas, managing director of Wartsila's Helsinki shipyard, which is a landmark in the centre of the port city.

The Royal Princess has been prepared for the floating out operation in a covered 400,000 cubic metre dry dock, where Helsinki's heavy snowfall does not hamper work.

The floating out of the Royal Princess, which is eleven metres longer than the dry dock, will be a tricky business, because the western harbour is very narrow and full of broken ice.

"We are using the most modern methods", Mr Saarikangas said, "and this enables us to complete the ship in a very short time. The order was placed in April, 1982, and the ship will be delivered in October this year.

"Our competitiveness is based on several things, he said. First of all, the Royal Princess is a totally new concept, which features among other things our AOC design, which means "all outside cabins."

"We have also been able to establish a high reputation on the passenger cruise liner market, of which we hold about 30 per cent. We have always been reliable, and all passenger ships we have built have been delivered on time."

Wartsila's design philosophy means that the operator will get exactly the ship it needs. As an example of Wartsila's shipbuilding division's innovative capacity the company has delivered 51 different new types of ships during the past ten years.

Mr Saarikangas is certain that the cruise market will grow an average of 10-15 per cent a year.

He cites the example of cruise ferry traffic between Helsinki and Stockholm. Hugely improved ferries increased the capacity on this route four fold a few years ago. And the cruise ferries have been sold out ever since. This means more than seven million passengers a year. The same as the number of cruises sold in the whole of the United States in a year.

Wartsila objects strongly to subsidies to the shipbuilding industry. "Subsidies bring down productivity, work moral and competitiveness, and it leads to the need of more and more subsidies. So, many European countries have ended up with 20-25 per cent subsidies", says Mr Saarikangas. In Finland, subsidies have been used only in two separate cases.

Finland's hard winters force the country to have a fleet of powerful ice-breakers, which can keep the sea lanes open all through the winter, this has enabled Wartsila to become the leading ice-breaker builder in the world.

In fact, 60 per cent of the ice-breakers built after the second world war have been built by Wartsila, nearly 50 in total, and several are on order.

Most of the specialized arctic ships have been built for the Soviet Union. The bilateral barter trade between Finland and the Soviet Union is based on world market prices, Mr Saarikangas stresses. Subsidies are out of the question, because Finns get the price in goods, but the trade has great advantages for a country like Finland, which cannot compete with credit terms with the major countries. The Soviet trade does not need credits.

The value of the Soviet trade for Wartsila is on average about 25 per cent of the turnover.

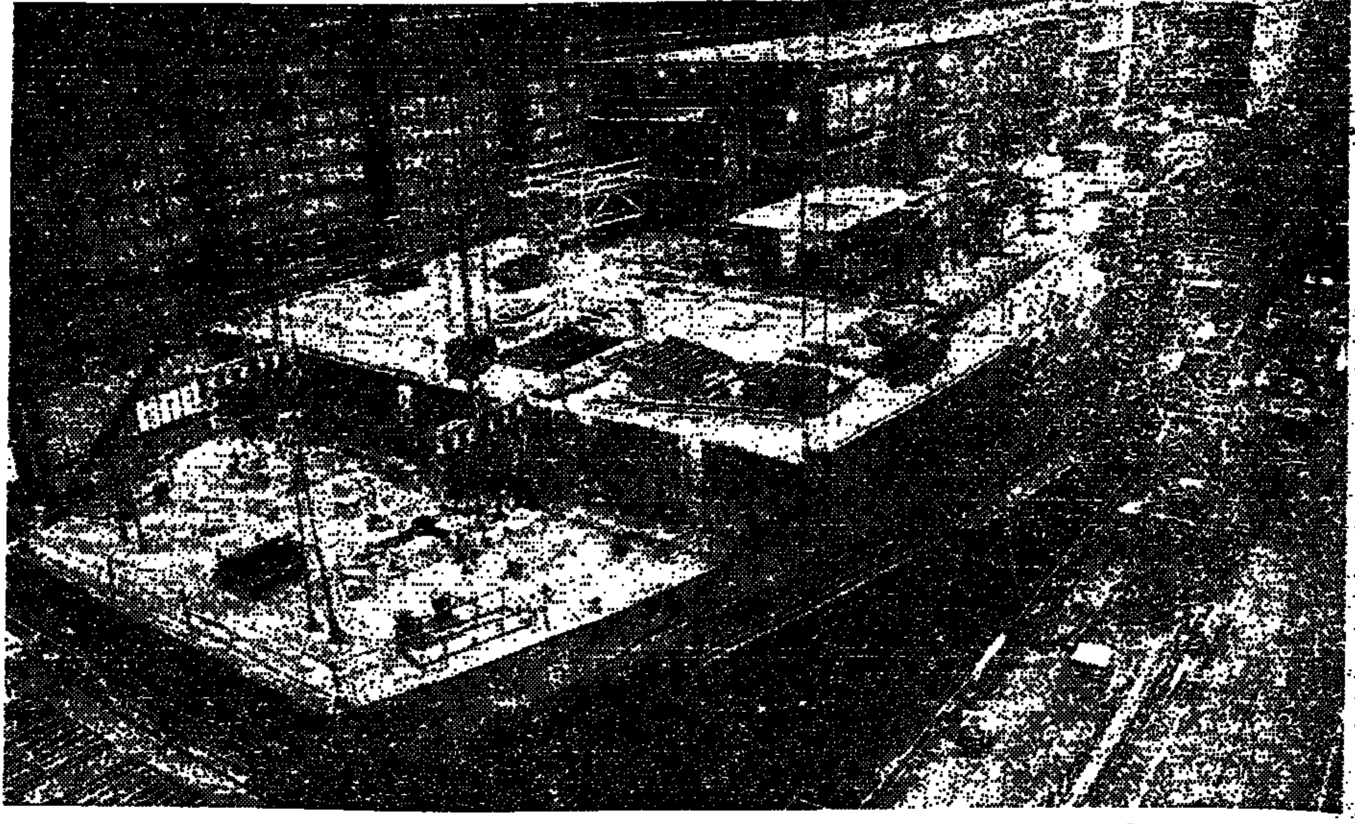
Five years ago the company had no production outside Finland, and now it has production units in Europe, Asia and north America. Exports and overseas production accounts for 85 per cent of sales.

Wartsila has also decided to make an equity issue on the international market later this year. It also intends to apply for a listing for all of its free series two shares on the London Stock Exchange. It will be the first Finnish company seeking listing in London.

Wartsila is already listed in Helsinki and Stockholm, where a successful issue took place last spring.

In addition to being number one on cruise liners and Arctic shipbuilding Wartsila is among the three leaders in papermaking machinery, among the four in marine diesels and among the ten in locks and security devices.

Olli Kivinen



Building the Royal Princess in a covered dry dock in Finland: she will be floated out today.

Philippa Toomey looks back at tougher cruising days

Food on the hoof, and perhaps the water will come in . . .

The sea, the sun, good food, good company, floating to exotic destinations in all the romance of a sea voyage – the glossy brochures today describe a popular holiday fantasy, often fulfilled. It was not always so.

The very first "cruise" that the Peninsular and Orient Company advertised (in an extremely discreet way) was in 1884; the steamer *Vectis*, 6,000 tons, was specially fitted up as a yacht to carry about 150 passengers, "and will, in future, be regularly employed on those Pleasure Cruises which have become popular as combining the most delightful Holiday Excursions, with the benefit of sea air, under the most luxurious conditions".

The voyage to India was less promising. In a letter of 1859, we read: "The P & O *Benares* left Mauritius with every corner of the ship full of coal, and about 240 tons on deck." This was also well before the days of refrigeration, and the food (on the hoof, with food to sustain it) had also to be embarked. In another letter, from the P & O *Pottinger* in 1858 "we have a regular farmyard on board, as in addition to the cows we have about forty sheep and a gazelle and a goat and a kid."

Comfort was minimal, and there is a complaining note in a letter from Captain Sir William Symonds, of the P & O *Oriental* in 1841, pointing out that when the ship was fully laden, the portholes had to be closed for fear of water coming in. "The ladies complained of nauseous smells and suffocation. Indeed, the interior of the vessel is in my opinion ill contrived: there is no proper partition between the large, tawdry saloon and the main deck, so that there is all the smell of hot oil, tallow and the disagreeables from mess places of the crew. The nausea also from the places where the stock was kept came into the saloon."

Tha passengers had to walk through all kinds of dirt to get to their cabins, and Captain Symonds concludes "the main deck was disgracefully dirty, a perfect pandemonium".

Contemporary drawings and photographs show ladies and gentlemen dressed up to the nines, collars, ties, jackets, crinolines, everyone wearing a hat, sitting around on deck in the tropical sun at temperatures of over 100 degrees.

The P & O line was started by two men with an eye to the main chance (and to the future): Arthur Anderson, born in Orkney, served in the Royal Navy in 1808 and after the Napoleonic wars, started as a clerk in a shipbroking and agency business in London, founded by Brodie McGhie Willcox. The two men become partners, chartering small vessels to the Spanish Peninsula. They backed the winning side in the civil war in Portugal, and were lucky enough to do the same in the Spanish Civil War – a link which enabled them to obtain the contract to carry the Royal Mail to the Peninsular at a contract rate of £29,000 a year, a very large sum of money indeed.

During the 1914-18 war, many of the P & O liners were converted to armed merchant cruisers or troopships, and there were also many losses. After the war, much larger ships were built, with more consideration given to passenger comfort. In the *Mooltan* and *Maloja* (both 20,000 tons) there were no inside cabins and both first and second class had portholes.

By the 1930s, all cabins had running water (hot and cold in First Class). The music room departed, the swimming pool arrived. Second class became tourist.

Even so, the class structure remained, and at the P & O AGM in 1927, Lord Inchcape (the chairman) said that some amusement had been caused by "a man who had been on a *Ranchi* cruise wrote me the other day, saying he thought we ought to have a strict list for those who proposed to go on our cruising voyages. He suggested that no man should be booked unless he could show that he was a member of a good London club, and that no lady should be accepted unless she had been presented at Court".



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DECISIONS POSTPONED

Triumphantly, the Government yesterday unveiled a white paper designed to prove that public spending is at last under control. That claim has been made too often in the past to be taken at its face value: there has been a real rise in public expenditure every year since 1979, and today it absorbs 2.5 per cent more of national income than it did in Labour's last year.

But the new plans, implying no further real rise over the next three years, do at last look attainable. Admittedly, the Government is still very bad at forecasting social security spending, which inevitably depends on the number of claimants – it has even had to increase its estimate of next year's bill by £1.300 million during the past few months. The white paper is still too optimistic about Whitehall's degree of control over local authority spending. And its targets for nationalized industries' supply of backdoor taxation, in the form of monopoly profits fed into the exchequer, still look over-ambitious. But at last the Treasury has made room within the totals for a reserve against unexpected contingencies that looks adequate.

All this, however, is a meagre harvest from five years of constant struggle over departmental budgets and hasty, ill-considered, last-minute cuts to keep the total under control. Nor is this over. These are only plans, after all; the further sharp cuts they imply in many departments have still to be translated into action. Yet none of them is based on a radical reappraisal of these departments' responsibilities. They are still largely based on a nibble here, a squeeze there, with the contingency reserve ready to dole out to any minister who can get the prime minister on his side. The only difference with these targets is that the contingency reserve is big enough to absorb special pleading or the easing of impossible demands without breaching the overall limit. (The reserve, indeed, is big enough to arouse another suspicion; that Mr Lawson intends to dangle it over his colleagues' heads as a possible source of tax cuts if they can trim their budgets enough.)

Hitting targets is better than missing them; but it is not the real battle. The achievement the Government is now congratulating itself upon, after five years in office, is merely to have checked the upward drift in public spending at a time when rising output should enable it to do better. Even Messrs Callaghan and Healey, scorned by Mrs Thatcher for their economic management, did briefly succeed in making a real dent in public spending in the late 1970s. Yet Mrs Thatcher seems to have lost her ambition to do so. Only last month, on ITV's Weekend World programme, she told Brian Walden that "I do not believe it possible to cut public expenditure below the plans we indicated" the previous year. A welcome realism, perhaps, after the failed ambitions of past public spending reviews – but also an unwelcome note of defeatism.

For this year's public spending plans bear all the signs of decisions postponed. The rise in public spending has not been halted because the Government has got a grip on social security; even over a period when it is assumed that unemployment will flatten out, spending on benefits goes up by nearly 18 per cent in three years, about 5 per cent faster than inflation. The money to pay for this, and for a hefty rise in defence spending, has been found in a series of thoroughly dubious ways.

It comes first out of the sale of public sector assets, a once-for-all financial boon of about £2,000 million a year between now and 1986-87. This should not be treated in public accounts in the same way as a cut in spending. As a source of funds, it is likely to dry up at just the moment when the Government's other great financial bonus, from North Sea oil, also begins to dwindle, leaving an awkward hole on the other side of the balance sheet for the late 1980s. Even the cuts outlined for specific programmes are the result of a badly-planned squeeze, not of deliberate decisions to alter the role of the state. It has been possible, for example, to trim education because the school population was falling; in the late 1980s that helpful trend will come to an end, before the Government has begun to focus on fundamental choices.

For five years the Government has fought an unrewarding battle to contain spending, with fading enthusiasm and sense of innovation and increasing recourse to the mindless trimming of budgets across the board. Exhaustion with this performance is not an excuse for inaction. Now is the time to plan priorities for the end of the 1980s, with full attention to their economic effect. If the Government tries to rest on its laurels, it will discover how quickly they wither and die.

BLACK AND WHITE IN LUSAKA

The agreement reached at Lusaka to set up a joint Angolan-South African commission to monitor the ceasefire along the Namibian border is undoubtedly "an important and constructive step" towards the eventual independence of Namibia, as the communique claims. There have been many previous false dawns and delicate negotiations still have to take place on such questions as: Will the South Africans really allow the South West African People's Organization (communist creatures of Moscow in their book) to take power in Windhoek? And will the Angolans in the end send the Cuban troops home?

Perhaps the cheering should thus be somewhat muted. But that things have progressed this far is a diplomatic triumph for the Americans. Dr Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, has worked long and hard to bring this about, travelling repeatedly up and down the African continent. The Americans are optimistic (though they admit that things remain "fragile") that this is the beginning of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435, which calls for a ceasefire followed by elections and eventual independence. The five-nation Western "contact group" (Britain, Canada, France and West Germany joining the Americans) were entrusted with finding ways to bring this about, but it has been Dr Crocker and his colleagues who have taken charge. They have been responsible for bringing into play the issue of the Cubans in Angola (not "linked" but "parallel"). If negotiations fail, the United States will be blamed by the whole of Africa. But persuading South Africa to announce three weeks ago a disengagement of its forces and a planned withdrawal from Angola was promising. The Lusaka agreement (the first such pact between South Africa and its black neighbours) looks like setting up a momentum.

Spokesmen for the Angolans and Swapo (which is notably absent from Lusaka) remain deeply mistrustful of South African motives. And neutral observers even now find it difficult to visualize the Pretoria Government sitting idly by while elections bring Swapo to power in Windhoek. The reforming Prime Minister, Mr Piet Botha, has enlarged his political base, but he is still sensitive to the heavy breathing on his right from Dr Andries Treurnicht and his splinter group, the Conservative Party. To be seen to sell South West Africa down the river would have serious political consequences.

The strength of the American argument over the past months has been that they had a deal to offer which could bring benefits to all concerned. The Namibians obviously want power. The Angolans have suffered greatly from the border war and by all accounts would also be glad to send their expensive Cuban protectors home if they could be sure of no more incursions from South Africa and if they could deal with the greatly expanding power of Unita (the second is a very big "if" which has received little attention in the negotiations).

For the South Africans there are pluses to be set against the internal political minuses. The huge cost of the war is an increasing embarrassment in economic hard times. And the human cost, about 75 dead a year, is enough to produce dangerous protests among whites against call-up to operational areas. There is also a strong argument which says that Swapo in power would be less of an ogre than Swapo in exile. Different personalities would be involved, and economics would force pragmatism: Namibia can survive only by continuing to be integrated into the South African economy and dependent on international capital.

THE OMAN CONTRACT

Although some of his insinuations are unpleasant and his latest line of questioning is irrelevant, incompetent and the rest of whatever it is lawyers say about each other, Mr Peter Shore is justified in having pressed the Prime Minister for a fuller statement about her part in the Oman university deal in 1981. Our political culture – and this is one of its better features –, is strict about the separation of public duty and private financial interest. It demands that men and women in public life, especially ministers of the Crown and above all prime ministers, do not put themselves in a position in which there is, or appears to be, a conflict between public duty and private interest. Sir Winston Churchill when prime minister expressed the matter in the form of a rule almost exactly in those terms. It is Parliament's business to be alert to possible infractions.

The appearance of there being here the sort of conflict between duty and family interest that ministers are supposed to be careful to avoid arises from the fact that while she was in Oman the Prime Minister was, as she is happy to relate, strenuously promoting the claims of Britain to be the recipient of orders the Omani government was then placing for the construction of the Sultan Qaboos university and teaching hospital. Simultaneously her son, Mr Mark Thatcher, was in the country in the capacity of businessman fishing in the same water for a contract on behalf of Cementation International with which he was remuneratively associated. Mother and son met twice, once in Abu Dhabi just before they went independently of each other into Oman, and again in the environs of the Sultan of Oman's summer palace two days later. Cementation was, as it happened, the only British firm after that contract at the time.

When almost three years later news of Mr Mark Thatcher's part in the affair reached the newspapers and the Prime Minister began to be asked questions in Parliament, it was not easy for her to know how best to respond. What she did was to say briefly and several times that she was out there batting for Britain by doing what she could to steer the Omani orders in Britain's direction; that she does not and did not on that occasion discriminate between British companies; and that she answers in the House of Commons for her actions as Prime Minister not for the actions of members of her family going about their own affairs.

The framework of that response was appropriate. She gave at least some account of her official activity in the matter of the Oman contract, and she is most certainly not answerable for her son's business activities. But its brevity and intended finality did not fully take account of the unwelcome fact that there was in the situation described an appearance of conflict between public duty and private interest and that there were legitimate questions to be asked. She should have been more forthcoming.

As for Mr Mark Thatcher, the criticism would be that he was trading on his mother's name in a business matter in which she too was active in line with her public duties, and that this was going on in an environment which would be likely to exaggerate the influence he would derive from his relationship.

The Prime Minister is quite right not to be drawn into assuming responsibility for her son's business dealings. All the more reason why she should be as open and informative as possible about the official steps that were taken with a view to securing the Omani orders. Had she done so the affair would probably have died away as quickly as it arose.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Freedom at GCHQ to associate

From Mr Greville Janner, QC, MP for Leicester West (Labour)

Sir, Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, repeated in article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, says this:

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

It is apparent that the remarkable statement of Mr Dennis Chiles (February 14), "The right to form and join trade unions is surely not a basic human right...", expresses a somewhat eccentric view and certainly not one which accords with international law and understanding.

The Government's real problem with GCHQ and international law arises not out of the agreed, clear and fundamental right of any citizen to protect his interests through belonging to a trade union, but rather to the extent of the exceptions.

In the unhappy event of the Government carrying out its intentions, contrary to the recommendations of the Select Committee on Employment, upon which I am privileged to serve, I would be surprised if it does not face legal action – and equally surprised if it is not in breach of its obligations in international law.

As always, though, the law should only be the outward garb of morality. That the Government's action is ill-advised, ill-considered and wrong-headed is a view common to most MPs of all parties – as the select committee's report clearly indicates.

Yours faithfully,
GREVILLE JANNER,
House of Commons.
February 15.

Food for thought

From Mr Ralph Rogers

Sir, Your leading article today (February 15) criticises those African governments which, to please their urban populations, have kept food prices so low that there is insufficient incentive for their farmers to produce.

As a result no stocks have been built up and there is famine in years of poor harvest.

On the opposite page David Hart fulminates against British farmers who, helped by the policies of the EEC (not to mention their own hard work) are able to produce some surplus of food in years of normal harvest.

Sir, which policy would most consumers prefer – one which produces food or famine?

I am, Sir, your obedient agricultural servant,
RALPH ROGERS,
Court Lodge,
Horton Kirby,
Nr Dartford,
Kent.
February 15.

A breath of India

From Mr Richard Rhodes James

Sir, How wrong Ferdinand Mount (feature, February 13) is about *The Jewel in the Crown!*

I write as a member of the Raj. I spent my early childhood in India and I returned, at about the same time as Paul Scott, to join the Inidian Army. My father spent forty years in India. Numerous relatives spent their lifetime there. I breathed the Raj.

I read Paul Scott's work with a mounting conviction that this was the India I knew. And to commemmorate the anniversary of his death I spelt out my wonder at his achievement in a talk on the radio.

The words I used then I stick to absolutely: "Those of us who were a part of the Raj are grateful to him for the trouble he took over us. Now, if we're asked what it was really like, we can say with confidence, 'Read Paul Scott'".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RHODES JAMES,
15 Almoners Avenue,
Cambridge.
February 13.

Medical arithmetic

From Professor I. M. Richardson

Sir, Mr Richard Wakeford's letter (February 11) contains the misleading statement that this university is soon to be without five major clinical professors. Despite a much above average cut in recurrent grant since 1981 this medical school has never been without five clinical professors and is indeed about to advertise the regius chairs of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics/gynaecology; moreover this university has recently endowed from private funds a new clinical department of ophthalmology and appointed its first professor and head of department from the spring of this year.

May I assure your readers that Aberdeen is, and will continue to be, known nationally and internationally as much for the quality of its medical graduates as for its central role in the production of oil. We see no case for any significant reduction in the output and export of either commodity.

I. M. RICHARDSON, Dean,
Faculty of Medicine,
University of Aberdeen,
Aberdeen.
February 14.

Severn crossing

From Mr A. T. MacMillan

Sir, Would it not be possible to combine a new crossing of the river Severn with the much thought about Severn Barrage, thereby killing two birds with one stone?

Yours faithfully,
A. T. MacMILLAN,
91 Cadogan Gardens, SW3.
February 8.

Judges' powers and union rights

From Professor Lord Wedderburn of Charlton, FBA

Sir, The Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson (report, February 15) calls for more "trade union rights" in order that judges should have expanded powers to settle industrial disputes. Rights cannot be discussed in the abstract: we need concrete examples.

Would they include a union right in law to bargain (repealed 1980), or effective rights to consultation and information (now proposed by the EEC, opposed by the Government), or restored and expanded rights to fair wages for the low paid (progressively repealed from 1980 to 1983)? In all, what measure of fairness will be used?

Would a judge have power to restore to employment workers improperly dismissed (a sanction which existing laws cannot enforce)? Would courts enforce employment in the case of workers arbitrarily refused work (not only in sex or racial discrimination cases but also after blacklist embargo or refusal of engagement by reason of political or other prejudice)?

Above all, would the court enforce a right to work? The right that is top of most trade unionists' agenda is the right to a job. Would trade union rights include preference for members in engagement?

Sir John seems to be rather more specific about the price to be paid. Industrial "warfare" outside the courtroom is to end. The right to "self-help" (usually known as the right to withdraw labour) is to be discouraged and eventually forbidden.

This is in line with his comments to Government in 1983. He adds that binding collective agreements should be "encouraged" (as they were under the 1971 legislation). In Britain the main effect in law of that step is judicial enforcement of procedure clauses by injunction against unions and workers. To "forbid" workers to use "self-help" means ordering them to work.

In 1975 Sir John called for judges to have the jurisdiction to tell the public who is "right" in industrial disputes. This fallacious, corporatist belief that most disputes can and must be settled by reference to what a High Court judge thinks is "reasonable" vitiates such proposals. One recalls the somewhat similar proposals of Conservative barristers in *A Giant's Strength* in 1958.

Legislation cannot turn conflicts of interests into conflicts of rights just by saying so. Arbitration is not adjudication.

Workers will not in the long run accept regulation on such matters unless it rests upon a social consensus about the distribution of power and wealth which, in our society today, is less secure than ever since the war.

Judges who demand draconian powers to forbid workers to abstain from working must, whatever well intentioned bundles of rights they offer, remember with Lord Atkin that the legal right to choose constitutes in employment "the main difference between a servant and a serf".

Yours sincerely,
WEDDERBURN OF CHARLTON,
29 Woodside Avenue,
Highgate, N6.
February 15.

Female circumcision

From Lord Kennet and others

Sir, May we, who are promoting the Abolition of Female Circumcision Bill in the House of Lords, comment on the letter of the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (February 8)?

He asks to what extent this mutilation is now practised among us. We kn ow it is happening, but we do not know how much; it is something people do not readily talk about. Perhaps gynaecologists are themselves the people most likely to know the extent. In this respect, as in others, we would welcome all the help which the royal colleges, each in its special position, can give.

Sir Rustam Feroze wonders who, under the Bill, would judge what was physically normal and what was an abnormality, and thus whether a given operation was legal or not. The answer is, it must be a registered medical practitioner.

The Bill does not allow "mental health" (as opposed to "physical health" or "abnormality") as a reason for operation. The exclusion of "mental health" as a reason to allow an operation on a healthy and physically normal girl or woman is not based on spurious racial grounds, but on very sound ones which have been roundly endorsed by the Commission for Racial Equality. They are that mental health can only be included by specifically banning someone's "custom and ritual", for the first time in modern history. On the same day that Sir Rustam wrote his letter, the Lords rejected an amendment to include mental health, after full and informed discussion.

Sir Rustam writes: "The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has stated publicly that it is opposed to ritual circumcision in any form and does not oppose a Bill to ban it in the United Kingdom. We question ... the need for the Bill ...". That is not as clear and helpful an expression of the college's attitude as we might hope.

The Bill can still be amended at third reading in the Lords. We urge all those concerned to take into account not only the surgical side of this complex matter, but also the social, racial, and psychological aspect. Parliament is there to produce good law, and this is best done with the willing help and co-operation of all whose experience is relevant.

Yours etc,
KENNET,
COX,
MASHAM OF ILTON,
REA,
SEEAR,
House of Lords.
February 9.

Countryside heritage

From Mrs D. Henrion

Sir, Correspondents attempting to rebut Lord Melchett's letter (February 6) all have one thing in common, that they are so busy trying to score minor points that they completely fail to address the substance of his case. If, according to Mr George Curtis, Peter Melchett is "bleating", his opponents are braying.

It may well be that in the particular case under discussion the hedgerows were cut down for their own good; even so, where the land is already largely denuded, even the temporary destruction of cover is a setback for the wildlife of the area.

But the important point is that whatever the truth about the contribution to our landscape and wildlife of *past* farming methods, *modern* farming methods are still steadily depleting wild life habitats. The actual figures for this destruction can be found in the Nature Conservancy Council Habitat Report, but the basic facts have been known and repeated ad nauseam for at least the past decade, yet still the powers-that-be turn a deaf ear and a blind eye. One wonders whether they don't believe the facts or just don't care.

Even Sites of Special Scientific Importance, which are supposed to be protected by the Countryside and Wildlife Act, are being continuously damaged and encroached upon before the NCC has time, with its very small staff, to put the provisions of the Act into operation. In the rest of the countryside the few remaining wildlife habitats – woodlands, wetlands, hedgerows, heaths etc are totally unprotected and at the mercy of agriculturists.

That is why planning controls should be applied to agriculture, as they are to every other industry or individual. The idea that farmers should be free to do as they like with their own property is quite inappropriate when their property happens to consist of the entire countryside, which is also the only home of our native flora and fauna, everything which we call "nature".

Contrary to the apparent official view, "nature" is not a sectional interest of a few cranks and scientists; it is essential to the health and happiness of all. Do we want it relegated to a handful of "zoos", ie nature reserves, which we may visit in coachloads on selected weekends?

Yours faithfully,
D. HENRION,
13 Owlstone Road,
Cambridge.
February 13.

Fate of Temple Bar

From the Chairman of the Temple Bar Trust and others

Sir, The inspector who presided over the recent public enquiry into the differing views about Temple Bar has not yet published his report, and in these circumstances we think it would be inappropriate to rehearse once again the arguments which were submitted to the inspector over a period of four days; but, in view of the letter you publish today (February 8) from the Duke of Grafton and others, all of whom were witnesses or were represented at the enquiry, we must at least, with your permission, make certain facts clear:

1. Temple Bar, the only surviving gateway to the City of London, is private property; it stands on land privately owned; there is no public access to it, though our endeavours to protect it from vandalism have unfortunately only had a limited effect.
2. It is not either the wish of the owner, or of ourselves, that this important piece of architecture, of such historical interest, should be left in a country wood.
3. We do not consider it sensible partly to repair it where it is and then leave it once more uncared for and unprotected and unseen.
4. In the district where it is now located the local authority, the Borough of Broxbourne, is supporting our proposal to take Temple Bar back to the City.
5. There is no record known to us of any practical steps having been taken at any time by any of the distinguished bodies whose representatives have written to you, to protect, repair, safeguard or otherwise look after Temple Bar where it is. It was only after the City Corporation had granted us planning permission to re-erect Temple Bar in the City that this opposition began.
6. So far as we are aware, none of the opposing organisations have any funds whatever to implement their proposals, nor have they borne any of the expenses of protecting Temple Bar where it stands, nor have they offered to do so.
7. They overlook altogether that if Temple Bar is left where it is, partly repaired, there will be a continuing custodial expense, which clearly they are not going to meet.
8. An important part of our funds has been subscribed for the return of Temple Bar to the City,

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,
HUGH WONTNER (Chairman, Temple Bar Trust),
TIM SINGLETON (Vice-Chairman),
DAVID FLOYD EWIN,
D. M. DONALDSON,
DOUGLAS E BREEZE (Trustees),
MARTYN BECKETT (Architect),
1 Savoy Hill, WC2.
February 8.

Andropov's effect on Soviet press

From Miss Olga Franklin

Sir, Alas, poor Yuri (V. Andropov)! So few nice words. I followed his career line by line through *Pravda*, *Izvestia*, the famous *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, etc, and I feel justice ought to be seen to be done in the pages of *The Times*.

For one thing, he much improved the whole Moscow standard of journalism. This was not easy in so conservative a world as the USSR, so that even rumours of his own approaching death had to be severely muted. It seems I was the only monitor of the Soviet press to notice almost a month ago that *Pravda* was trying to say that he was dead or dying. After noticing the "obituary" type material being published about him, I said on *Weekend Woman's Hour* (Radio 4) that Andropov would "never be seen in public again".

The whole Soviet press changed for the better when he took power. His first action was to allow a *Pravda* editorial denouncing itself and the whole Soviet media for "sloganising, phrase-making". Both paper and print improved so that it is now possible to read the Moscow papers without eyesight damage.

He permitted more freedom of the press than ever before. The *Izvestia* woman's supplement gave almost a whole page to a sex-and-crime story of a conman who murdered a shop manageress in the town of Ivanovo, with a short account of the trial and the man being condemned to death.

He allowed it to be revealed for the first time since the Revolution in 1917 that the Soviet Union does *not* have a welfare state. He allowed the *Literaturnaya Gazeta* to publish a whole page of letters from readers revealing that there is no automatic maternity grant, or pension, or any other financial support from the Government and that cases of destitution have no choice between the poor house and the charity of friends or factory colleagues. (This was revealed in the fuss over some 3,380 unmarried mothers who besieged the courtroom in Tashkent last autumn to try and get some maintenance from runaway young fathers.)

Certainly all this limited "freedom" was permitted in the name of greater work discipline to try and improve Soviet productivity. Surely the important thing is that Mr Andropov had the courage to do it nevertheless. It would therefore be a pity to allow him to be buried without one single tribute.

Yours respectfully,
OLGA FRANKLIN,
5 Bishams Court,
Caterham,
Surrey.
February 14.

From Mr William Douglas-Home

Sir, Your leader writer told us this morning (February 14) that "... the Soviet leaders will continue to devote a disportionate amount of their time to promoting their own careers".

A result of Western influence no doubt!

WILLIAM DOUGLAS-HOME,
Drayton House,
East Meon,
Hampshire.
February 14.

Animal experiments

From Mr Brian Gunn

Sir, According to your report (February 15) concerning the experiments performed on live animals at the Chemical Warfare Centre at Porton Down, Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence, refuses to reveal the precise details of this cruel research, even though the experiments are carried out in the name of the public and paid for with taxpayers' money.

Surely we have the right to know how our money is being spent? In particular, the ministry must reveal exactly what experiments are being performed on live animals at Porton Down, the total numbers of each species of animal involved in this research and, most importantly, whether any animals used in these obnoxious experiments are allowed to recover from the anaesthetic, when administered, and suffer whatever pain might ensue.

It appears that there is no legislation at all to control these experiments, as even the totally inadequate Cruelty to Animals Act of 1876 governing vivisection need not apply to the Crown.

Experiments on live animals concerned with warfare research are deeply offensive to millions of people in this country and this society calls for an immediate ban on all research of this nature.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN GUNN General Secretary,
The National Anti-Vivisection Society Limited,
51 Harley Street, W1.
February 16.

Wheels within wheels

From Mr Jack Adrian

Sir, "Got out of his pram" may well be a colloquialism rife in Islwyn's corridors of power, but I think what Mr Neil Kinnock really meant was "went off his trolley".

This means precisely what I suspect Mr Kinnock was getting at when referring to Mr George Shultz: that he was "on the hinge" or "over the edge" or even "off the roof" – in short, that Mr Shultz "wigged out utterly".

Yours faithfully,
JACK ADRIAN
Clematis Cottage,
Bury End Street,
Cradley,
Near Malvern,
Worcester,
February 15.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 16: The Queen, Patron, this morning attended a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the British Leprosy Relief Association (President, Mr Chris Bonington; Chairman, Sir Gawain Bell) at All Hallows-by-the-Tower, Byward Street, London, EC3.

Her Majesty was received on arrival by the Right Hon the Lord Mayor (Dame Mary Donaldson) and the Vicar of All Hallows-by-the-Tower (the Reverend Peter Delaney).

The Address was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Blessing by the Bishop of London.

Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Robert Fellowes and Major Hugh Lindsay were in attendance.

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe visited The Queen at Buckingham Palace today.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 16: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Hepburn Starey Blind Aid Society at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street.

Lady Elizabeth Basset and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 16: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, today attended the launch of the Farming and Wildlife Trust at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London, WC2.

Mr John Higgs was in attendance.

February 16: The Duke of Gloucester was present at a Reception given by the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers to mark the Quincentenary of the Grant of their Charter by Richard III at Wax Chandlers' Hall, London, this evening.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 16: The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, today visited Helen House Hospice at Oxford.

Mr David Napier was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 16: Princess Alexandra, President of World Wildlife Fund – United Kingdom, this afternoon received Sir Arthur Norman upon relinquishing the appointment as Chairman and Mr T. A. P. Walker upon assuming this appointment.

Her Royal Highness and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at the Mountbatten Festival of Music by the Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines at the Royal Albert Hall.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. Amery and Lady Lucinda Lambton
The engagement is announced between Colin Amery, of 27a Upper Montagu Street, London, W1, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Amery, and Lucy Lambton, of The Old Rectory, Hedgerley, Bucks, daughter of Lord and Lady Lambton.

Mr A. H. Walton and the Hon Mary Butler
The engagement is announced between Alastair Henry, only son of Sir Raymond and Lady Walton, of Wimbledon, London, and Mary Synolda, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Dunboyne, of Chelsea, London.

Mr P. L. Catchlove and Miss S. L. Griffith
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. L. Catchlove, of Sydney, Australia, and Sarah, daughter of Mr J. E. Griffith, of Mallorca, Spain, and Mrs S. Griffith, of Eashing, Surrey.

Mr C. W. H. Carter and Miss J. D. Nolan
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Carter, of Bedale, North Yorkshire, and Jenny, daughter of Mr Leonard Nolan and the late Mrs Pam Nolan, of Hightown, Merseyside.

Mr H. W. P. Clarke and Miss P. A. Bull
The engagement is announced between Hugh, eldest son of Dr T. Clarke, of Upton Pyne, and Mrs J. Clarke, of Lympstone, and Philippa Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. J. Bull, of Virginia Water.

Mr J. M. Freeman and Miss D. H. Tomkinson
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Freeman, of 65 Hillgrove Crescent, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, and Heather, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Tomkinson, of Elfords, Heightington, Worcestershire.

Mr C. W. Goldsmith and Miss E. J. Rodgers
The engagement is announced between Cosmo, son of Mr and Mrs William Goldsmith, of Hambledon, Hampshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Rodgers, of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

Dr A. B. Hawthorne and Miss K. Ebrahim
The engagement is announced between Barnabas, son of Professor and Mrs J. N. Hawthorne, of Nottingham, and Kamila, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Z. Ebrahim, of Dulwich, London.

Mr I. Hemsley-Hetherington and Miss E. J. Hodgson
The engagement is announced between Iain, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Hetherington, of Blyth, Northumberland, and Emma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. O. Hodgson, of Neasham, Durham.

Mr A. M. Jeffries and Miss B. M. Ansdell
The engagement is announced between Andrew Mark, third son of the Rev Peter and Mrs Jeffries and Belinda Mary, younger daughter of Mr & Mrs Peter Ansdell, both of Ampney St Peter, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Mr A. J. V. G. Lake and Miss K. P. Jones
The engagement is announced between Adrian John, youngest son of Mr and Mrs G. V. Lake, of Vyne Cottage, Dorchester, Oxfordshire, and Kate Pandorah, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. K. Jones, of Old School House, Henley-on-Thames.

Mr R. J. Martin and Miss G. M. Mountain
The engagement is announced between Raymond, only son of Mr and Mrs A. J. Martin, of Eastcote, Middlesex, and Gillian, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. O. Mountain, of Cambridge.

Dr J. J. Payne-James and Miss H. S. Bevan-Jones
The engagement is announced between Jason, elder son of Dr and Mrs Ian Payne-James, of Copdock, Suffolk, and Hilary, daughter of Dr and Mrs Harri Bevan-Jones, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr M. W. Holmes and Miss S. A. Browne
The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Maurice Holmes, of Boughton Court, near Faversham, and Sally, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs N. P. Browne, of Doghouse Farm, Petham, nr Canterbury.

Mr C. F. Robinson and Miss R. J. Mayor
The engagement is announced between Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs H. M. Robinson, of Penshurst, Kent, and Rosemary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Mayor, of St David's College, Llandudno.

Mr P. Rooney and Miss S. Brassington
The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs F. Rooney, of Formby, Merseyside, and Susan, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Brassington, of Wistaston, Cheshire.

Mr A. Khazam and Miss F. H. Herzberg
The engagement is announced between Alan, eldest son of Nadji and Gladys Khazam, and Faye, only daughter of Edward and Pearl Herzberg.

Marriages

Mr R. Henson and Mrs S. Turner
The marriage took place in London yesterday of Mr Robert Henson and Mrs Sarah Turner.

Mr D. McCabe and Miss H. Godfrey
Mr David McCabe and Miss Honor Godfrey were married in Melbourne, Australia on St Valentine's Day.

Mr R. S. Miller and Mrs R. M. Moffat
The marriage took place quietly in Winchester on February 16 of Mr Roger Miller, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, and Mrs Roslyn Moffat, of Little Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Aldro School

A presentation will be made on July 7 to the Headmaster of Aldro School, Mr Crispin Hill, to mark his retirement. If you have not already been invited please contact the Secretary, Aldro, Shackleford, Godalming GU8 6AS.

Seminar

English-Speaking Union of Sri Lanka
The English-Speaking Union of Sri Lanka held a seminar in Colombo on February 15 on the role of English in promoting peace, amity and unity in a multicultural society.

Mr Michael Wynne-Parker, Vice-President of the English-Speaking Union of Sri Lanka, was the principal speaker, assisted by Mr Justice H. Rodrigo, Mr Bakeer Marker, Minister without Portfolio, and Dr Neville Karunatillek, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Sri Lanka. Sir Razik Fareed proposed a vote of thanks.

Memorial services

Mr R. I. Kenyon-Slaney
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Robert Ivan Kenyon-Slaney was held on Saturday, February 11, at St Andrew's Church, Shifnal, Shropshire. Canon Keith Wilkes officiated, assisted by the Rev John Turner and Mrs John Thorneycroft. Mr Rupert, Mr Thomas and Miss Natasha Kenyon-Slaney (sons and daughter) read the lessons and Canon Wildes gave an address. Among those present were:
[illegible]

Mr J. Le Mesurier
A memorial service for Mr John Le Mesurier was held at the Actors' Church, St Paul's, Covent Garden, yesterday. The Rev Michael Hurst-Bannister, Senior Chaplain of the Actors' Church Union, officiated. Mr Bill Pertwee gave an address and Mr Moray Watson read a prayer. Mr Mark Eden, Mr Ian Lavender, Mr Kenny Clayton and singers from the Players' Theatre also took part in the service. Among those present were:
[illegible]

Mr A. Clayre
A memorial service for Mr Alasdair Clayre was held at St James's Piccadilly, yesterday. The Rev Donald Reeves officiated, assisted by the Rev Ian Thomson. Mr David Pryce-Jones, Miss Emma Kirkby, Mr Peter Montagnon, Miss Frankie Armstrong, Mr Peter Levi, Shusha, Deaconess Bernadette Hingley, Mr Ivor Bolton, Mr Andrew Parrott and Mr Nick Bicat also took part in the service. Among those present were:
[illegible]

Receptions

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host at a reception given at 10 Downing Street yesterday evening for entrepreneurs and small businessmen.

Mrs L. Leifland
The Swedish Ambassador and Mrs Leif Leifland were hosts at a reception held at their residence, 27 Portland Place, yesterday in honour of Mr and Mrs Robert Maxwell. At the reception, Mr Maxwell was presented with the insignia of the Swedish Royal Order of the Polar Star in recognition of services rendered to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Swedish Nobel Foundation.

Dinners

Hunterian Society
The Hunterian Society held its anniversary dinner at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Dr N. P. Elliott Burrows, president, was in the chair and the principal guests included the Rev Lord Soper and Mr Wynford Vaughan-Thomas.

Butchers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, was welcomed by the Master of the Butchers' Company, Mr John W. Brewster, at the annual ladies' dinner held at Butchers' Hall last night. Other guests included:
[illegible]

Trade Policy Research Centre
Mr Paul Keating, Federal Treasurer, Government of Australia, Canberra, was the guest of honour at a Trade Policy Research Centre dinner held at the Café Royal last night. Mr Neil Clarke presided and the Australian High Commissioner was among the guests.

Services dinner

Royal Naval College Greenwich
A silver jubilee dinner was held at the Royal Naval College Greenwich last night after the conferment of Master of Science degrees and postgraduate awards to graduands and former students of the Department of Nuclear Science and Technology. The principal guest was Sir Walter Marshall, Director of the Central Electricity Generating Board. Professor J. R. A. Lakey, Director of the Department of Nuclear Science and Technology, presided and Vice-Admiral Sir Simon Cassels, Admiral President, was among those present.

Association of Consulting Engineers
Mr P. L. Martin, Chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers, presided at the association's annual dinner held at the Hilton International hotel last night.

Mountbatten Festival

Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were the principal guests at the second 1984 Mountbatten Festival of Music given by the massed bands of the Royal Marines in the Albert Hall last night in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, Royal Marines and other charities. The Commandant General Royal Marines and Lady Pringle were the hosts. Other guests included:
[illegible]

Birthdays today

Mr John Allegro, 61; Mr Alan Bates, 50; Sir Eric Clayson, 76; the Earl of Elgin, 60; Lord Foot, 75; Mr Barry Humphries, 50; Lord Kearton, 73; Miss Julia McKenzie, 42; General Sir John Mogg, 71; Sir Orby Mootham, 83; Professor Claire Palley, 53; Mr W. R. J. Pullen, 62; Mr T. C. Ravensdale, 79; the Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP, 55; Sir Gordon Slynn, 54; Mr Elleston Trevor, 64.

OBITUARY

MISS ETHEL MERMAN

Star of Broadway musicals

Ethel Merman, who died on February 15, at the age of 75, was a singing star who carried unique qualities into the world of Broadway musicals.

Eschewing singing lessons, apparently on the advice of George Gershwin, she nevertheless came to be known by the quality – and sheer quantity – of her voice. This was variously described as being 'not human' (Toscanini): 'All in one register' (Pavarotti); and 'down to good lungs' (herself).

It was well known to need no amplification in the largest of halls. Cole Porter is reported to have said it was 'like a brass band going by'. Ethel Merman did not mind. She knew well her own power to quell the orchestra which accompanied her. 'The bigger the band, the better' she often warned arrangers.

Her place in the history of Broadway is assured by her creation of the principal roles in *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Call Me Madam*.

She was born Ethel Zimmerman in New York in 1909 but dispensed with the preliminary sylable of her surname as being of an inconvenient length for fitting across vaudeville posters. She worked for a while as a secretary until George Gershwin gave her a supporting role in *Girl Crazy*. This role gave her merely one song, but it was "I Got Rhythm" and her performance of it rivetted the composer.

Thereafter she was in regular demand in big band Broadway musicals and in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s starred in some of the major stage offerings of the period, including *Anything Goes*, *DuBarry Was A Lady*, *Call Me Madam*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Gypsy*. Long before the end of this run of successes she could contemplate with equanimity her reputation as "the golden foghorn".

Her quality was that of a quintessentially stage, raucous – in the latter days even blousy – talent, and it belonged very much on the boards. She did not transfer terribly well to the screen and although she did pay visits to London she remained in the end something essentially transatlantic of genesis. English audiences loved her, but her talent and personality seemed, in truth, somewhat circumscribed when reduced to the small screen of television when she appeared there in this country.

As a performance she was a creature of physical presence; her personality was intended to take a live audience by storm; it did not best communicate when sieved through electronics.

A song such as "There's No Business Like Show Business" which she carried off with what might be described as sublime vulgarity, perhaps, best summed up her gigantic stage personality. But it was a personlality, it must be admitted that could not have been sustained without a voice which, while if might not please the most severe purists of the harmonic-polyphonic school, was nevertheless admired – sometimes with a species of stunned acquiescence – by several distinguished conductors and operatic soloists.

Ethel Merman won two Tony awards in 1951 for her performance in *Call Mr Madam* and was given numerous other awards, culminating in her 1972 Tony which acknowledged the contribution she had made during her entire career.

She was four times married, all her marriages ending in divorce, the last in 1964, to Ernest Borgnine, the actor, lasting exactly 38 days.

PHILIPPE ARIES

Philippe Aries, the French historian and demographer died in Paris on February 8 at the age of 69. He was one of the most interesting, widely read and controversial historians of his day, and his work was widely discussed – and criticized – in Britian and the United States, as well as in his native country.

Ariès was born in Blois on July 21, 1914. His father was an engineer, but Ariès showed an early interest in what are now known as the "human sciences" and read hisory at the Sorbonne. From 1943 to 1979 he worked as director of H.C. Documentation centre of H.C. Institut francais de recherches fruitieres d'outre-mer, but found the study of contemporary overseas agriculture only moderately absorbing as a full-time occupation.

He consequently took up historical research of more interesting kind on a part-time basis and described his experiences in this area in 1980 in his autobiography, *Un historien du dimanche*. His first interest was in demography, and the starting point for his best known book, *L'Enfant et la vie familiale sous l'Ancien Régime, published in France in 1960 and translated into English under the title Centuries of Childhood* in 1962, was the revolution which came over European society with the population increase between the 16th and the 18th centuries.

For it was then, Ariès argued, that two important changes occurred in the way Europeans thought of themselves in the context of their private life: the family ceased to be the large and fairly loose grouping of servants and distant relatives as well as of parents, children and their immediate kin; and childhood was discovered – or invented – as a distant age with its own qualities, characteristics, problems and privileges.

Contemporary post-war complaints that the family was on the decline thus struck Ariès as historically unfounded. For if, as he argued, the nuclear family such as we know it is so relatively recent a phenomenon, we should be more aware of how different we are from the much looser arrangements of the medieval period, and consequently much less disposed to deplore the disappearance of a form of social organization has, in a long-term context, scarcely had time to find its feet.

Like his later and more controversial work, *Western Attitudes towards Death: From the Middle Ages to the Present*, which appeared in English in 1974 before being published in France in 1975 under the title *Essais sur l'histoire de la mort en Occident* Ariès study of childhood and the family was based upon a wide range of sources: wills, memoirs, private family documents, diaries, novels, plays, paintings and even sculpture.

By the time he turned his attention to how Europeans thought of themselves in relation to death and advanced a thesis similar in part to that of *Centuries of Childhood*, other writers had joined the ranks of those whom his hostile critics termed "thanatologists", and this second work was less widely praised. Its view that the estabishment of private tombs for the dead accompanied the rise of the same kind of awareness of the claims of the individual, themselves the result of a decline in infant mortality and a greater sense of how important private life becomes, nevertheless seems unimpeachable.

Like all Aries's work both these books are as fascinating to read as novels, and are outstanding examples of the discoveries which historians can make when they decide to concentrate on what Balzac claimed should be the province of the novel: that of writing the history of manners and of man's perception of himself.

GERALD PALMER

Mr Gerald Palmer, who died at his home near Newbury on February 7 at the age of 79, was a man of many interests who served from 1966 to 1969 as President of the Council of Reading University and was a Forestry Commissioner from 1963 to 1965.

The inheritor of a large estate from his father, Eustace Palmer, a former chairman of the family business of Huntley and Palmer, he handed over a large part of it in 1968 to a charitable trust; but continued to manage both the trust properties and the remainder of the estate.

Gerald Eustace Howell Palmer was born on June 9, 1904, and educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford. He had a brief apprenticeship in Huntley and Palmer, but in 1935 he was elected National Conservative MP for Winchester, and sat in the House of Commons until 1945 apart from war service in the Royal Artillery.

He was defeated in the 1945 election and, somewhat in search of a creed, visited Mount Athos. There he became attracted by the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, and in 1950 he was admitted to that church.

In subsequent years he devoted much time to the translation and publication of writings from the *Philokalia*, the Orthodox scriptures. He also painted icons himself in exact conformity with the conventions of the art.

More usual for a country squire was his interest in forestry. His own plantations were expertly tended, and he held a number of offices: as Verderer of the New Forest 1957-66, chairman of the Forestry Commission's regional advisory commission for South-East England 1954-63, Forestry Commissioner 1963-65, and chairman of the Forestry Commission's national committee for England 1964-65.

He took an active interest in Reading University, serving on the Council for many years before becoming President in 1966. He was unmarried.

PROF JOHN HOUSE

Professor, John House, Halford Mackonder Professor of Geography at Oxford from 1974 to 1983 and a fellow of St Peter's College, died on February 1 at the age of 64.

His main interest was the geography of the North-east and its application to planning problems. From 1952 he wrote or edited a series of studies on social and economic aspects of life in the North-east, culminating in his book *The North East* in 1969, and later publications.

Beyond his home area he had a wide interest in political geography, shown in a study of the Franceo-Italian frontier developed during his tenure of a Leverhulme Research Fellowship in 1957-8, and in his last two books, *Frontier on the Rio Grande*, 1982 and – as editor and part author – *United States public policy: a geographical review*, 1983. These books were the fruit of visits to the universities of Nebraska, Southern Illinois and Texas.

He was President of the Institute of British Geographers in 1983.

Sir Clive Fitts, who died in Melbourne on February 7 at the age of 83, was a former Consulting Physician to the Royal Melbourne Hospital and a well-known cardiologist.

Lord Durgan, 4th Bt, died in Durban on January 30 at the age of 81

PROF EDITH WIGHTMAN

Professor Edith Wightman, who died suddenly in Hamilton, Ontario, on December 17 at the age of 45, had been Professor in the History Department at McMaster University in Hamilton since 1978, and was widely known for her work in Roman history and archaeology.

She studied Classics at St Andrews University, where in 1960 she shared the Millar Prize for the best arts graduate, and then move to Oxford for her doctorate. The publication of her *Trier and the Treveri* in 1970 was instantly accepted as a successful synthesis of the historical and material evidence for the Moselle region and retains today a scholarly authority. Several papers reflected the preparation of a major work on Northern Gaul (*Gallia Belgica*), which had already reached a stage close to publication.

From 1965 to 1969 she lectured in Classics at Leicester University. Though a successful and sensitive teacher of Latin and Greek, she yearned for greater scope to work and teach in ancient history and archaeology, and it was mainly for this reason that in 1969 she took the post offered at McMaster University; in 1978 she was appointed full professor.

In addition to her work on Gaul she took part in archaeological projects supported by the Canada Council, at Monte Irsi in Southern Italy (with Alastair Small) and then herself led a McMaster team to survey the historical topography and monuments of the Liri Valley south of Rome. In 1973 she was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

In 1976 she was appointed field director of the Canadian team to excavate and study the remains of ancient Carthage in Tunisia, an international project sponsored by Unesco. Her written contributions to both projects were complete at the time of her death.

Rear-Admiral Allan Poland, CBE, DSO, who died on February 6 aged 95, served in submarines from 1910 to 1937 and during the Second World War was successively Chief of Staff to C-in-C America and West Indies, Senior Naval Officer Western Atlantic and Rear-Admiral, Alexandria. From 1945 to 1947 he was Naval Assistant to Director of Sea Transport.

Professor Peter Hodge, Professor of Social Work at Hongkong University since 1970, died on February 2.

Science report

Throwing light on test-tube photosynthesis

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Scientists have been trying for many years to mimic the processes of photosynthesis in the laboratory. The rewards which could flow from subsequent developments in agriculture, solar energy conversion and storage, and for the chemical industry are immense.

The immediate goal of the research is to discover a combination of compounds which, then assembled in a test tube, will behave in the same way as different types of photochemical reaction centres in plants and algae where photosynthesis occurs. The difficulties include finding stable molecules, capable of a photochemical change in a fraction of a second, and possessing the ability to remain in their changed state until energy extracted from them allows a reversal to their original state.

According to a report in the latest issue of *Nature* from a group of scientists who have been working with Professor Thomas Moore of Arizona State University, one of the main obstacles to the development of an artificial photosynthetic system has been overcome.

They have discovered the trick of using a combination of materials which when exposed to 100 picosecond flashes of light, simulating individual photons of solar radiation, produces a stable but reversible change. (A picosecond is one-million millionth of a second.)

Several types of reaction centre exist in photosynthetic organisms. Higher plants and algae, which use water as the source of electrons and protons to help break down carbon dioxide during the photosynthesis reaction, contain two types of reaction centre known simply as photosystem one and photosystem two.

Photosynthetic bacteria, which do not go through the process of oxidizing water to reduce carbon dioxide but exploit more reactive substances such as hydrogen sulphide and organic acids for that purpose, contain only one type of reaction centre.

Despite those fundamental chemical differences, all photosynthetic reaction centres consist of a chromophore (P), which is always a chlorophyll molecule that absorbs light energy, and a closely associated electron donor (D) and acceptor (A). The chemical nature of D and A can vary. But in most cases the acceptor is quinone.

Professor Moore and his collaborators have synthesized a very stable molecule which mimics the photochemical properties of natural reaction centres. It consists of three electrochemically linked parts.

The chromophore used is tetraarylporphyrin which has a structure and light-absorption properties comparable to those of chlorophyll. The acceptor is quinone and the donor is a substance synthesized to be a substitute for a plant pigment called beta-carotene which is sometimes present in photosynthesis system two.

The discovery could be exploited in a solar cell in which the molecule would catalyze further secondary reactions which generate a usable chemical or electrical fuel.

Nature: Vol 307 Feb 16 1984.

Law Report February 17 1984 Courts-Martial Appeal Court

Drunkenness no defence to illegal possession of drugs

Regina v Young (Robert Gordon)
Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown, Mr Justice Kilner Brown and Mr Justice Russell

[Judgment delivered February 16]

Self-induced intoxication was not a relevant consideration in the exercise of the statutory defence provided by section 28 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The Courts-Martial Appeal Court dismissed an appeal by Robert Gordon Young (a signalman) against his conviction by a District Court Martial in Soest, West Germany (Assistant Judge Advocate General Canner) on June 1, 1983, of possessing a controlled drug (a quantity of Lysergide or LSD) with intent to supply it. He was sentenced to eight months' detention and to be dismissed from the service.

Section 28 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 provides: "(2) Subject to subsection (3) . . . , in any proceedings for an offence to which this section applies it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that he neither knew of nor suspected nor had reason to suspect the existence of some fact alleged by the prosecution which it is necessary for the prosecution to prove if he is to be convicted of the offence charged.

"(3) . . . the accused – . . . (b) shall be acquitted . . . (i) if he proves that he neither believed nor suspected nor had reason to suspect that the substance or product in question was a controlled drug."

Mr John Bishop, assigned by the Registrar of Courts-Martial Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Michael Hucker for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE KILNER BROWN, delivering the reserved judgment of the court said that the prosecution case was that after a previous transaction between Young and a German, in which Young had sold a small quantity of Lysergide, a meeting was arranged outside a disco bar. As they were negotiating for a further sale, police, who had previously been alerted, moved in and Young was arrested.

The evidence clearly established that Young did have some Lysergide, which he swallowed as the police approached. He had obviously been drinking, but the first witness who said that he was very drunk was his German girl friend, who was called as a witness for the prosecution. The others called for the prosecution put him as slightly tipsy or as affected but not drunk. There was strong evidence from the defence that he was seriously affected by drink and was almost incapable.

His condition was an important issue. There was really no defence available other than the statutory defence provided by section 28 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

One of the grounds of appeal introduced a difficult, interesting and (as far as their Lordships were aware) hitherto unexplored aspect of the effect of self-induced intoxication. It was alleged that the Assistant Judge Advocate General misdirected the court in withdrawing consideration of the accused's inability, caused by drink, to hold a belief or to register suspicion, by a direction that the test to be applied was that of the belief or suspicion of a reasonable sober man.

The relevant part of the direction began by relating the effect of self-induced intoxication to the burden on the prosecution to prove knowledge of possession as well as intent to supply. The two matters were treated together; no doubt that was with *R v Majewski* ([1977] AC 443) in mind, with reference to the irrelevance of the effect of drink as to primary intent.

Their Lordships had doubts as to whether the same criterion applied when knowledge as distinct from intent was under consideration. However, in the circumstanstances of the case, it mattered little if at all.

There was no need to analyse the burden on the prosecution as to establishing knowledge once the primary facts as to Young's conduct in swallowing the portion of drug was proved to the satisfaction of the court. *Prima facie* knowledge of possession was the only inference to be drawn. The introduction of the effect of drink at this stage was unnecessary.

It was not, however, a misdirection because the attention of the court was properly drawn to the statutory defence on which Young relied and in this context the effect of self-induced intoxication was a relevant, indeed the only relevant factor.

For the appellant it was contended that the subjective approach applied throughout in respect of the three requirements, which should be read as one and required consideration of the effect of alcohol on his actual personal ability to believe, suspect, or have reason to suspect, that what he had in his possession was a controlled drug.

For the prosecution it was submitted that the words "nor had reason to suspect" introducted the concept of that which was reasonable, and that affected the belief and suspicion; also that it was correct to introduce the objective test of the reasonable sober man.

It was clearly the law that when reasonable grounds for belief were canvassed, self-intoxication would not avail. For the appellant it was submitted that "had reason to suspect" was not the same thing as "reasonable grounds for belief". Reliance was placed on *Jaggard v Dickinson* ([1981] QB 527).

That was authority, not binding on the court but nevertheless persuasive, for the proposition that where there was an exculpatory statutory defence of honest belief, self-induced intoxication was a factor which must be considered in the context of a subjective consideration of the individual state of mind; the objective test of a reasonable sober man was irrelevant.

Accepting and applying that decision, as their Lordships did, it would lead to the conclusion that in so far as the belief and suspicion were concerned there would have been a misdirection in the instant case. But it left untouched the problem created by the introduction of the third limb, which was an integral part of the exculpatory defence.

The remaining question was whether a reason was something entirely personal and individual, calling for an entirely subjective consideration, or involved the wider concept of an objective rationality. Their Lordships were of the opinion that it was the latter. It followed therefore that it was a correct direction that the self-induced intoxication did not avail.

It was an unnecessary gloss to introduce the concept of the reasonable sober man, but that gloss did not vitiate the fundamental direction that the self-induced intoxication was no defence. The drunkenness relied upon could not assist in considering whether or not the accused had no reason to suspect that what he had in his possession was a controlled drug.

Solicitors: Director of Army Legal Services.

Revenue can collect more tax after their error

Vickerman (Inspector of Taxes) v Mason

Income tax due but not demanded by the Inland Revenue from a taxpayer owing to an arithmetical error in an assessment, could nevertheless be recovered by making a further assessment on him after the error had been discovered, Mr Justice Scott held in the Chancery Division on February 10.

His Lordship allowed an appeal by the Crown from a determination of Westminster General Commissioners and declared that a further assessment to income tax made on the taxpayer for 1979-1980 was valid.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the original assessment made on the taxpayer and which contained the error had not been appealed against and the tax had been paid. Notwithstanding, section 29(3)(b) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 gave the Revenue power to correct the error by issuing the further assessment.

THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Cash alternative as M1 fails to measure up

Short of one of those extraordinary last-minute turnarounds, the Government's £10 billion target for public borrowing in 1983-84 looks well within its grasp. The latest official figures show that the public sector repaid debt of £2.6 billion last month to bring total borrowing for the first 10 months of the financial year to £7.5 billion.

The monetary background to the Budget also looks encouraging following a slowdown in monetary growth last month. Bank of England figures show the main measure of the money supply, sterling M3, rose by 0.6 per cent to remain within the Government's 7 to 11 per cent target range. Bank lending to the private sector totalled £1.28 billion, rather higher than the average for last year but well down on the £1.71 billion recorded in December.

The Government's finances are commonly in surplus in the early part of the year as the main tax gathering season gets under way. Treasury calculations were upset last year by the eleventh-hour spending spree by government departments, which added more than £3 billion to borrowing in February and March. This year officials appear confident that a similar spree can be avoided. They expect cash limits, which were reduced by the Chancellor in his emergency measures last July, to begin to bite shortly.

Nevertheless, the latest figures show that departmental spending is still running well ahead of plans. Spending so far this financial year is 9.4 per cent up on the same period last year, 4 per cent higher than budgeted, though after adjustment the Treasury estimates the underlying rise at something less than 8 per cent. If continued this would imply an overspend this year of £2 billion, compared with an estimate of only £500m in the public spending White Paper published yesterday.

The prospects for public borrowing are improved by higher-than-expected tax revenues which are 7.4 per cent up from a year earlier in the first 10 months of 1982-83.

The public sector surplus and heavy sales of gilts and national savings largely offset the impact on the January money supply of buoyant bank lending and a steep increase in lending overseas. The narrow money measure, M1, fell by 0.2 per cent and the broad measure of private sector liquidity, PSL2, rose by 1.1 per cent in the month. Sonce last February when the target period began M1 has grown by 11.4 per cent at an annual rate and PSL2 at 12.3 per cent, compared with 10.7 per cent for sterling M3.

Come the Budget, M1 is booked to slip gracefully from the headlines as a narrow money measure, because it has become far too sensitive to interest rates. The proportion of interest-bearing deposits in M1 has grown from a tenth to more than a quarter since 1975. The point of a narrow money measure is as a guide to the level of spending – transactions in the jargon – rather than credit. In his Mansion House speech, the Chancellor paved the way for a switch to M_0, the wider monetary base.

For the cogoscenti, one of the minor points of interest in Mr Lawson's Budget speech will be whether he opts for M_0 or the even narrower measure notes and coins and whether he lays down a specific target for this.

James Capel, the stockbrokers, suggest he should opt for notes and coins while the statisticians wait to see if M2, the latest specially designed measure, comes up to scratch. They also suggest that a target for 3 to 7 per cent for notes and coin would fit with 6 to 10 per cent targets for the wider measures.

A new Treasury working paper also points more cautiously to notes and coins in circulation. It concludes that even these narrow measures have become more interest sensitive in the past few years, but not unduly so. It is also possible to adjust the figures to take away distortions caused by th trend to the cashless society, principally by allowing for the growth of bank and building society accounts.

Given these adjustments, both M_0 contains two irrelevant elements. Cash in bank tills fluctuates widely short-term and bankers' working deposits at the bank of England are more a function of the regime of monetary control than short-term trends in the economy.

The Chancellor should plump for measuring and targeting the amount of notes and coins in circulation. Then, for the first time, the authorities will actually be talking about what the vast majority of the public thinks of as money and all those homely metaphors about printing the stuff will at last take on some substance.

A Morgan at the helm

A descendant of one of the founding fathers of Morgan Grenfell, one of the City's leading merchant banks, now sits at the head of its American operation, Morgan Grenfell Inc. Mr John A Morgan, aged 53, has hitherto resisted the temptation to join one of the Morgan family firms.

For the past two years he has been the Morgan of Morgan Lewis Githens & Ahn, a New York investment banking firm. Before that he was vice-chairman of Smith Barney, Harris Upham and given credit for much of that firm's expansion. He will continue as a partner of his own firm in addition to being the non-executive chairman of Morgan Grenfell Inc.

Following Mr Morgan's appointment as chairman, Mr Christopher Whittington, who is based in London, will become excutive vice-chairman. Mr John Franklin remains deputy chairman and Mr John Fraser continues as president.

Mr Morgan's appointment signals an acceleration of Morgan Grenfell's development in New York. Its New York broker-dealer business is 40-strong.

The great-great-grandson of Junius Spencer Morgan and great-grandson of the legendary J. Pierpont Morgan is expected to bring considerable experience in the securities industry and mergers and acquisitions, and "tremendous contracts" in New York and elsewhere.

Morgan Grenfell's New York operation specializes in mergers, acquisitions, leasing and project finance. It is examining the possibility of becoming and American money manager and a trader in US Government securities. In London, Morgan Grenfell and Wedd Durlacher Mordaunt, the largest UK jobbing firm, have been in talks which may lead to a trading link, although both companies say they are talking with other possible partners. In Tokyo the bank has a representative office but is now contemplating ways of strengthening its Japanese profile, including an application to join the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Halifax barred from opening offshoot in Isle of Man

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Plans by the Halifax Building Society to set up an offshoot in the Isle of Man to take deposits and pay interest to investors without deducting tax have been unexpectedly blocked by the UK authorities.

The Halifax had been hoping to open for business in the Isle of Man in the spring. Another leading society, the Leicester was working on similar plans. However, Mr Richard Hornby, chairman of the Halifax, revealed yesterday that at a very late stage the UK authorities expressed doubts whether building societies could operate in this way within the present legal framework and the Halifax had been forced to postpone its plans.

Building societies are regulated by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and Mr Michael Bridgemen, Chief Registrar, said yesterday that he could not comment on the matter at this stage.

However, the chief objection of the authorities appears to have been that if the scheme went ahead, the Halifax would not have been able to stand behind the Isle of Man offshoot in the event of problems. Under present legislation, building societies are not allowed to set up or make payment to subsidiaries.

Official sources also indicated that the scheme could have led to tax problems. It was suggested in other quarters that the possibility of investors using the Manx offshoot for tax evasion had prompted considerable concern.

At the Leicester Building Society, Mr Scott Durward, chief general manger, declined to make any comment. "There is absolutely nothing I want to say about the Isle of Man at the moment. I would prefer to remain totally silent on the subject," he said.

Halifax was planning to use a Manx offshoot to gather deposits from expatriates and use the proceeds both for mortgage finance in the Isle of Man and to help meet demand for mortgages on the mainland. The society said there was no intention that it should be relevant to United Kingdom taxpayers.

Halifax said yesterday that there had been clear informal indications that it would be allowed to proceed but there had been a change of heart at a very late stage.

Mr Hornby said more realistic legislation was urgently needed to "to avoid wasteful exercises of this kind."

Earlier he announced record results for the Halifax in the year and plans to push up lending a further 20 per cent to £4,400m this year.

Society may cut rate in April

The Halifax might step out of line wilth a cut in its mortgage rate in April, if it judged conditions were right. Mr Richard Hornby, chairman of Britain's biggest society, said yesterday However, he emphasized that a move would depend on next month's Budget and the likely response from other societies.

"It would have to be a judgement of demand and supply on one hand and our expectations of what other societies will do. The fewer who follow suit, the greater the risk to us," he said.

Although mortgage demand is even stronger than predicted only a month ago, Mr Hornby suggested that building societies might soon be in a position to lower their rates but still satisfy borrowers' needs. But he conceded that in the aftermath of the break-up of the interest rate cartel and in the present competitive climate, it was very difficult for one or two societies, however big, to cut their rates in isolation.

They would risk a big outflow of funds and, because of this, rates were likely to stay higher for longer

Sterling rallies

Sterling gained against most currencies during the day, despite some hesitation in the foreign exchange markets over the direction of the dollar.

The pound closed in London at \$1.4450, up 0.25 cents, and it also made progress against the Deutschemark and French franc. The trade weighted index rose by 0.3 to 82.1.

Early trading in the dollar was active as market operators tried to work out which way the currency was going. But later in the day some optimistic American personal income and housing start figures pushed the dollar up against continental currencies.

The dollar gained 40 points against the Deutschemark to close DM2.6765, and added 1.65 centimes against the French franc to Fr8.2415. It slipped, however, when compared with the Swiss franc and also lost ground against the yen.

STOCK EXCHANGES

SE 100 Index: 1035.0 up 2.0 (day's high 1035.6, low 1030.4)
FT Index: 817.9 up 1.3
FT Gilts: 82.89 up 0.12
Bargains: 21,406
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1157.66 down 1.05
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,897.15 up 4.99
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1084.06 down 6.59
Amsterdam: 165.4 down 0.7
Sydney: AO Index 746.2 up 3.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1052.7 up 12.9
Brussels: General Index 141.24 down 0.11

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4450 up ¼ cent
Index 82.1 up 0.3
DM 3.87 up 0.0125
FrF 11.9050 up 0.04
Yen 336.75 unchanged
Dollar
Index 128.4 down 0.5
DM 2.6765 up 0.0038
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4435
Dollar DM 2.6770
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.582777
SDR £0.729497

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans wcc fixed 9⅛-9
3 month interbank 9$\frac{7}{16}$-9⅜

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9⅞-10
3 month DM 5$\frac{11}{16}$-5$\frac{9}{16}$
3 month Fr F15½-15⅞

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond
100$\frac{19}{32}$-100$\frac{23}{32}$

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)
am \$383.10 pm \$383.90
close \$383.75-\$384.25
(£265.75-£266.25)
New York (latest): \$383
Krugerrand* (per coin):
\$395-397 (£274-£275)
Sovereigns* (new):
\$90-91 (£60.25-£63)
*Excludes VAT

USM plans for double glazing firm

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Therm-A-Stor, the double glazing company which has trebled in size during the recession, is to seek a public flotation on the Unlisted Securities Market this autumn.

The spectacular rise of the company has boosted it to the No 3 position in the double glazing market behind Everest and Anglian. Turnover this year will be close to £30m compared with £10m in 1980.

The USM flotation will confirm the millionaire status of Mr John Morris, the Therm-A-Stor chairman who bought the once-defunct operation in 1975 for £800. Today, he says, the company is worth £30m.

From a loss of more than £300,000 in 1975-76, Mr Morris has turned round the company's fortunes to a post-tax profit of £700,000 in 1983, a figure that he predicts will be at least doubled this year.

"In 1976, we were 8,000th out of 9,000 double glazing companies. Today, we are third, proving that good management can make it against the odds."

The £600m-a-year double glazing market has shown some resilience during the recession as the result of home owners improving their properties rather than moving house. Mr Morris says he has seen a particularly rapid increase in business since Christmas, due, he believes, to definite signs of economic recovery. Much of the new business is on credit, "a sign that people are no longer afraid of losing their jobs".

Mr Morris, aged 37, whose rags-to-riches story impressed the Prime Minister to the extent that she agreed to open his new factory in Peterborough last year, is planning to maintain personal control of the company after the USM flotation while using the proceeds for expansion.

Therm-A-Stor, the last remaining independent among the important double glazing companies, moved to Peterborough in 1979 and opened a 10,000 sq ft factory a year ago.

It now employs 1,400 there and at 20 branches around the country.

Sedgwick Group director resigns

By Our Financial Staff

A director of the Sedwick Group, the largest Lloyd's insurance broking firm, has resigned after an investigation of his relationship with PCW Underwriting Agencies. PCW is at the centre of Department of Trade and Industry and police inquiries into the problems at Lloyd's.

Sedwick said yesterday that it had been informed that Mr Robert Adams, chairman of the Sedgwick Marine Group, and Mr Geoffrey Naude, a former marine underwriter, had recieved payments form Mr Peter Cameron-Webb, the former chairman of PCW, when they were Sedgwick employees.

"Having investigated the position, the board of Sedgwick is satisfied that the payments were made to the individuals concerned in their personal capacity without the knowledge, of any impropriety on the part of the Sedgwick Group," the company said.

Mr Adams, a vice-president of the Insurance Institute of London and an underwriting member of the Lloyd's market, resigned his position at Sedgwick earlier this week. Mr Naude retired from the company in December.

Sedgwick began its investigation after being informed in December of the payments by Department of Trade and Industry and Lloyd's

The affairs of PCW, a part of the Minet Holdings insurance group, came under investigation in November, 1982.

Managers buy out Hoverspeed

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

The management of Hoverspeed, the cross-Channel hovercraft operator, yesterday paid a "nominal" sum to buy it from its two unhappy former owners, British Rail and Broströms, the Swedish shipping group.

The management made its move after British Rail declined to continue its guarantee of a £4m overdraft which has been keeping the financially troubled company afloat since it was formed in 1981, through a merger of Hoverlloyd and Seaspeed.

Although British Rail would not comment on the reasons behind its change of heart, it appears to have been prompted by the Government's determination to make British Rail privatize its Cross-Channel operations.

The buyers include five senior members of the company's management, headed by Mr Michael Keeling, the chairman, and Mr Gerry Draper, its deputy chairman. Mr Draper is a former marketing director of British Airways.

Hoverspeed operates six hovercraft and employs 600 staff. Although it is still losing money after depreciation charges, Mr Keeling said that he expected the company to generate a positive cash flow this year. National Westminster bank has agreed to continue the overdraft facilities in return for guarantees from the new owners.

● The Trading of Trusthouse Forte, the big hotels group, is considerably ahead of last year, Lord Forte, the chairman, says in the company's report and accounts. "We look forward to further progress in our operations and profits in the current year," he says.

Honda may set up plant in UK

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Honda of Japan has once again raised the long-term possibility of building a motor-cycle manufacturing plant in Britain, but there appears to be little hope of a decision for several years.

The company first revealed its intention to conduct a feasibility study in Britain a year ago after a visit to Japan by Mr Patrick Jenkin, then the Industry Secretary. The announcement, made by Honda's then president, Mr Kiyashi Kawashima, was seen at the time as one of several attempts being made by Japanese industry to calm European fears over the trade imbalance

Honda's new chairman, Mr Tadafhi Kume, said yesterday that the company was still looking at the possibility of a British factory

US group in £13m Suter deal

By Jonathan Clare

One of the world's biggest manufacturers of refrigerator compressors has acquired an option to buy 10 per cent of Suter Electrical, which bought the Prestcold refrigeration business from BL under the guidance of Mr David Abell.

The option is part of a deal worth £13m of Suter which involves selling the Prestcold SHUD division and its two distrubution subsidiaries to Copeland Corporation of the US. Suter also gets distribution rights for Copeland's equipment which could increase turnover of the Nationwide Refrigeration Supplies division by between £4m and £7m.

It was also revealed yesterday that the merchant bank Robert Fleming had built up a stake that could be worth 20 per cent of Suter, including conversion of convertible loan stock

● The Dow Jones industrial avarage slipped more than 5 points to 1154 shortly after the New York Stock Exchange opened. Brokers said they thought the market might try to bounce back but added that investors were still nervous.

● American industrial production increased a seasonally adjusted 1.1 per cent last month, the Federal Reserve Board announced. It has now grown 15.1 per cent since January, 1983.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kennedy Brookes deal near

Young's brewery, Seagrams, the Canadian drinks group, and James Burrow, makers of Beafeater gin, are about to emerge as big shareholders in Lennoxcourt, the company formed by Kennedy Brookes to develop and manage three theme eating and drinking areas in the £45m Trocadero development off London's Piccadilly Circus. The company is expected to be floated on the Stock Exchange at some stage.

Kennedy Brookes, the Mario and Franco restaurant group, retains a 51 per cent interest in the company which will have spent about £3.8m on the project by the time the Trocadero opens in May.

● Sales of unit trusts continued to boom in January as investors piled in on the back of rising markets and a flood of promotional advertising. Sales for the month reached a record high of £327m, 25.5 per cent up on the previous record of £260.6m achieved in November 1983.

● Marler Estates said yesterday that its controversial £1m all-share bid for SB Property, the company which owns Chelsea Football Club's ground, had gone unconditional. Marler said it had received acceptances for 69.58 per cent of the "A" shares and that the offer was being extended until March 2.

● Receivers have been called in at Highgate Optical and Industrial after several years of mounting losses. Highgate, which distributes optical and photographic equipment, said yesterday that it had "no alternative but to ask National Westminster Bank to appoint a receiver."

Reed buys US magazines

By Philip Robinson

Reed International, the publishing company which owns Mirror Group Newspapers, yesterday announced it has spent \$41m (£28.4m) on buying American magazines.

The latest two – *Interior Design* and *Corportate Design* – from Whitney Communications Corporation have a \$12m turnover.

Reed says it recently bought three others: *Chemical Purchasing*, *Energy Design Update* and *Food Transportation*. These have a combined turnover of \$16m.

The magazines increased to 30 the titles of Cahners Publishing, the US publishing arm of Reed and one of the largest publishers and organizors of trade and consumer exhibitions.

The purchases are part of a strategy review which Reed is carrying out.

Takeover by GKN 'would hurt UK trade'

Carmakers oppose AE merger

By Andrew Cornelius

Evidence from the leading motor manufacturers in Europe, including Ford, General Motors, Volkswagen and Renault, could lead to a decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block any renewed takeover attempt for AE (formerly Associated Engineering) by its Midlands rival, Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds.

The motor manufacturers say that if the merger goes ahead there would be a net loss of trade for Britain in vital engine components like pistons and bearings where AE and GKN are currently used as alternative suppliers.

Mr John Collyear, chairman of AE, said yesterday his original estimates that Britain's share of engine bearing business in continental Europe would fall from 90 per cent to 75 per cent if the merger went through had been revised downwards. "After taking stock of our customers' reaction to a merger we estimate that a more realistic figure is 60 per cent," he said.

Mr Collyear indicated that this pattern would be repeated in other areas including the supply of engine cylinder liners


John Collyear: business share will fall.

where both AE and GKN supply European manufacturers.

Before the Monopolies Commission investigation began into GKN's proposed £67m takeover of AE last year GKN had argued that a merger would strengthen the British motor componets industry and help it to win orders in an increasingly international marketplace.

However, AE has used the six-month breathing space allowed by the monopolies investigation to stiffen its defence against a renewed takeover attempt by GKN. The commission's report on the takeover is due to be completed within the next three weeks, with a final decision expected from the Government by end of March.

If the Government chooses to ignore the warnings by motor manufacturers about the detrimental effects of a merger AE is ready to launch an aggressive campaign to protect it independence.

The AE management team and 16,000 employees have thrown their weight behind the board in its attempt to produce results which will help to stave off a bid by GKN. Pretax profits for the current year are running way ahead of budget. In the first quarter to December 30, AE produced pretax profits of £3m against a target of £2.5m, and £400,000 pretax for the previous year to September 30.

Analysts are looking for pretax profits of about £14m for the current year and £20m next year as AE's recovery continues.

The results could be helped by a windfall £8m contribution from property disposals

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

Laker loss hampers Saga's profit take-off

Saga Holidays, which specializes in vacations for retired people, now almost makes a virtue of the speed with which it disposed of the disastrous Laker acquisition. Nevertheless, the consequences rumble on. Pretax profits for the 16 months to the end of October were £2.43m against £136,000 for the previous 12 months, but they would have been £1m higher were it not for the Laker losses.

This does seem the end of the story, however, and Saga is adamant that it will concentrate henceforth on its traditional business. The enormous increase in turnover from £49.2m in 1982-83 to £90.4m for the 16 months – of which £7m came from Laker – points to the underlying strength of sales.

But the structure of the market is changing. For competitive reasons Saga is coy about revealing the contribution from its comparatively recent American operations. It is clear, however, that a significant proportion of the extra turnover came from that source.

The same cannot be said of all the British business.

Saga has tried to stem the tide a little by upgrading its own six British hotels, for example, but the booking indications so far this year are that demand for holidays in Britain is expanding only slowly.

This decline, which is structural and owes much to the growing preference of pensioners for more expensive and exotic holidays, was more than offset, however, by better results from the European land holidays and from cruises.

Hopes for longer term development are therefore mainly pinned on the United States and on selling more European holidays. The American operations, on which £800,000 was spent when they started in 1982, now have 70 employees and have only begun to exploit a market of 35 million retired people. The US business is now self-financing.

A small company has been launched in Holland to test the market on the Continent. Still, Saga must find another way into the peak season market.

The transitional 16 month year inevitably makes comparison confusing, and while the next year from November 1 to October 31 will overall include a better balance of revenue and expenditure, it will also mean that the first half will be worse than the second.

This time, however, the net dividends of 5p are covered by earnigns of 7.97p and net assets of £8m cushion expansion. The shares were unchanged at 114p where a 6.3 per cent yield indicates reasonable confidence in the market.

Datastream

Since it came to the market a year ago with an offer for sale that was nine times oversubscribed, Datastream has been cursed by the theory that its business will eventually be killed off by bigger competitors in computerized financial information.

But yesterday its share price seemed finally to break free of the 225p level at which it was originally floated, surging 27p to 260p in response to news that interim pretax profits for the second half of calendar 1983 rose 63 per cent to to £11.73m.

A satisfactory outcome for the year as a whole is expected which would indicate profits of at least £3m against £2.34m last time. A first interim dividend of 1.45p is to be paid and assuming the final is also lifted, the shares will be left yielding something over 2 per cent – not unreasonable for a high technology stock.

Datastream has installed about 30 new terminals over the last six months, raising the total to 430. More Significantly, however, there has been a rise in demand from existing clients for the unit trusts service and a substantial increase in investment accounting business. The effect was to increase sales during the half year by 24 per cent to £6.01m.

A new commodity service is to be launched later this year bringing the company an expected 50 new clients. Datastream is also planning to go into direct competition with the Wood Mackenzie viewdata system by offering a performance measurement service to fund managers by the end of the year.

The shares will remain vulnerable to regular bouts of speculation that Reuters or Telerate is to enter its particular area of the financial database market.

But the company will continue to make progress so long as there is development in financial services. There is also the scope for overseas expansion, which is only just beginning to be tapped, though the nervous stock market debut the company made appeared overdone.

Market report, page 18

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

MEDIUMS

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

C — E

F — H

I — N

O — S

T — Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

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OIL

PROPERTY

PLANTATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

UNLISTED SECURITIES

STERLING: SPOT AND FORWARD

MONEY MARKET RATES

OTHER MARKETS

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

EURO-$ DEPOSITS

GOLD

Petranol to search for oil in Texas

By Michael Clark

Dog Bend Lime, Ellenberger and Pal Pinto Lime are all familair terms to the oil rich operators of Texas, they could also become part of the vocabulary of British institutions before long. This is because a British company intends to take on the Americans at their own game and search for oil in the plains of Texas.

Petranol, an oil exploration company formed in 1981, is applying under Chapter 7 of the Stock Exchange's Yellow Book for a full listing. Under the guidance of Brown Shipley and broker L. Messel, 2.8 million shares (about 26 per cent of the issued share capital) at 125p a share are being offered to raise £3.05m to finance further exploration and pay off existing borrowings.

Petranol was the brain child of Mr Clive Smith who is well known in the Potteries and has in the past built an impressive private business empire, including Britain's largest private mine.

Mr Smith intends to get the oil out of the ground as cheaply and quickly as possible. This makes the oilfields of Texas the best choice. Texas supplies about 30 per cent of America's energy needs and has to date produced 46 billion barrels.

Petranol already has sizable stake in three fields Hearn, Windham and Sweetwater totalling 3,290 acres, ranging from 50 per cent of the lease to 100 per cent. Part of the proceeds will go towards financing the Sweetwater leases.

For the year to September 30, 1983, pretax profits stood at £151,000 and for the remaining three months of the year were £101,000 with a projected cash flow of £2.5om.

Debt fears ease but banks remain wary

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

The sovereign debt exposure of the big international banks has been a considerable source of worry for banking supervisers around the world since the debt problems of the developing countries emerged. However success of bankers, the International Monetary Fund and central banks in tackling the problems of the big debtors has helped to greatly reduce concern in banking circles over the past year.

In the past six months, for instance, increased quotes were finally agreed for the International Monetary Fund, allowing it to continue playing a crucial role alongside the banks. An $11 billion rescue package was finally put in place for Brazil after months of tortuous negotiations and Mexico has shown encouraging signs of a return to financial health.

Problems remain, however, with Argentina a particular worry for bankers because of its serious economic problems and officials in both Britain and the United States are conscious that difficult times could lie ahead.

The nine largest US banks have about 300 per cent of their captial exposed in loans to developing countries and Eastern Europe, according to a study by Mr William R Cline of Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Even more worrying for United States officials is the fact that one of the two largest American banks has 74 per cent of its equity exposed in Brazil and nearly 55 per cent in Mexico.

Because of its geographical closeness, Latin America is the area where United States banks have found themselves with the biggest problems. British banks have also lent heavily in this area. Midland Bank has a significant exposure to Latin America through its Californian subsidiary, Crocker National Corporation while Lloyds Bank has longstanding links with the continent.

British banks, compared with their American counterparts, also have sizable exposures to Eastern Europe. However, worries about Comecon borrowers have been greatly allayed by the stringent adjustment measures many of them have taken and the big improvements in their current account positions.

British banks are also among the strongest capitalized in the world and are considered to be less prone to the dangers which could afflict leading banks if a big borrower declared a default on its loans.

Despite this, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, stressed recently the importance of international banks ensuring they were well capitalized. "International banks need to sustain and emphasized the need for adequate bad debt provisions against doubtful loans.

Foreign exposure of US banks at June 1983

	All banks ($ millions)
Eastern Europe	6,111
Opec members	24,921
Latin America and Caribbean	70,214
Asia	28,808
Africa	4,680
Other	221,211
Total	355,945

Exposures to Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venzuela

	$ millions	% of total assets
Bank America	7,200	5.8
Chase Manhattan	6,323	7.9
Citicorp	10,823	8.3
Manufacturers Hanover	6,074	9.4
Barclays	2,100	3.5
Lloyds	3,200	9.3
Midland	2,800	5.8
National West	1,600	2.9

Source: Wood Mackenzie estimates, US statistics, Salomon Bros.

Foreign exposure of UK registered banks and overseas operations at June 1983

	($ millions)
Eastern Europe	7,157
Opec members	11,432
Latin American and Caribbean	24,804
Asia	9,245
Africa	4,808
Other	110,111
Total	167,557

Source: Bank of England.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10½%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 5¾%, £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¼%, £50,000 and over, 7¼%.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **Lincroft Kilgour:** Mr Tony Holland, chairman of the cloth merchanting and menswear manufacturing group, says in the annual report: "Last year's results will be difficult to follow, particularly in view of the loss of the transport authority uniform contract contributed £186,000 to profits in 1982-83 and seems likely to contribute a further £70,000 this year for the period to completion.

"Much depends on a pick-up in volume in the cloth merchanting division, which our trading policy dictates mu be achieved without a corresponding increase in stock levels. Certainly, there are indications that the long decline in volume may be ending and, in certain markets, there are even signs of a slow recovery in confidence."

Dobson Park Industries: The chairman, Mr J. J. Francis, told the annual meeting that the recently publicized economic recovery is not, as yet, resulting in any significant improvements in demand from the group's principal markets. "The expected reduced level of British mining machinery sales will materialize in the first half-year, but will be cushioned by an appreciable increase in overseas business," he said.

● **River Plate & General Investment Trust:** Gross revenue for 1983 (figures in £000) 1,733 (1,597). Total net dividend on deferred shares up from 6p to 6.2p net.

● **Alexanders Holdings:** Year to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 52,884 (43,846). Pretax loss 214 (profit 154). No dividend (same), but one-for-ten scrip issue proposed.

● **Elbief:** Half-year to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000. 1,150 (1,239). Pretax profits 207 (137). Interim payment, net a share, up from 0.385p to 0.44p.

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Norfolk Capital rises on bid talk

Norfolk Capital, the hotels group run by Lady Joseph, widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, the man who founded the Grand Metropolitan leisure combine, looks certain to receive a takeover bid soon.

Its shares leapt by 12p to 69p yesterday, spurred by the news that **Kennedy Brookes**, the Mario and Franco restaurants group, had recently lifted its stake to 7.28 per cent. But more likely to bid for Norfolk first is **Stakis**, the Glasgow-based hotels, clubs and casinos group, which recently emerged as a big shareholder.

It was believed to be buying Norfolk shares in the market yesterday and its chairman, Mr Reo Stakis, was said to be "down in London on business" when an attempt was made to contact him in Glasgow.

Mr Michael Golder, chairman of Kennedy Brookes, said: "It is well known that my company wants to get into character hotels, but my board has not yet considered bidding for Norfolk. It certainly looks as though someone will though, doesn't it?"

Norfolk, which owns 10 hotels, including the Ecclestone in London, is valued at just over £13m in the stock market. Three directors of Kennedy Brookes have also bought 150,000 shares in Norfolk. These were bought on the day their company acquired its original stake in Norfolk, on February 3.

The rest of the equity market kept its head above water with the FT Index closing 1.3 up at 817.9, helped by renewed bid speculation and selective buying. Last night, the annual dinner of the Society of Investment Analaysis was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel and this is usually an occasion for brokers to let their hair down. It also effectiverly ensures that turnover is reduced to a trickle.

Leading shares managed modest improvements, with **Allied-Lloyns**, up 1p to 152p, **BTR**, 3p to 417p, **BOC Group**, 1p to 277p, **Boots**, 1p to 172p, **Courtaulds**, 1p to 140p, **Hawker Siddeley**, 4p to 402p, **P & O**, Deferred 1p to 270p, **Plessey**, 3p to 217p, **Thorn EMI**, 2p to 619p and **Trusthouse Forte**, 1p to 205p. But there were falls in **Glaxo**, 8p to 735p, **Beecham**, 3p to 298p and **Distillers**, 1p to 257p.

Hanson Trust took a step nearer to victory over London-Brick yesterday when Hoare Govett, its broker succeeded in picking up a further 2 million shares at around 163p. So far this week Hoare has bought about 7 per cent of the equity taking the total to 16.5 per cent. This, combined with acceptances already received takes Hanson's stake to 18.5 per cent. London Brick rose 1p to 164p yesterday.

Gilts sported gains of up to 25p as the pound continued to benefit from a weaker dollar on foreign exchanges. The money supply figures, showing sterling M3 up by 0.6 per cent, were well on target and the public sector borrowing requirement, showing a surplus of £2.62bn, was also well received by the market.

On the bid front, shares of **Gestetner**, the beleaguered office equipment group, bounced 8p to a new hgh of 101p as several leading brokers continued to pick up more shares on behalf of their European clients.

This has led to the growing belief among many marketmen that a bid may be just around the corner. It is probably also responsible for the strength of the shares over the past six months which have risen from a low of 29p. However, the Gestetner family continues to hold a controlling interest in the shares and any approach would have to be agreed.

Allianz, the German insurance group which failed in its attempt to gain a tochold in the British insurance market with the abortive acquisition of Eagle Star, has denied its interested in making a bid for Phoenix Assurance. This clipped 11p from the price of Phoenix at 460p, which has been a strong market of late on market whispers that the US-based Continental Corporation was about to sell its 24 per cent stake for 600p a share.

Herr Wolfgang Schieren, chairman of the German group, said: "Allianz remains interested in obtaining a foothold in the British market after withdrawing from the takeover battle for Eagle Star in December, but we are not discussing a takeover with Phoenix".

The rest of the insurance composites remained a dull market ahead of the reporting season, which starts on February 29, with figures from **Commercial Union**, down 1p at 173p, after 171p. **Guardian Royal Exchange** lost 12p to 511p, **Minster Assets** 3p to 134p, **Royal Insurance** 5p to 513p and **Sun Alliance** £1/16 to £13 31/32. The only company to move against the trend was **General Accident** 3p higher at 443p.

The life insurance companies were also a dull market, despite some buy circulars covering the sector earlier this week from the broker Laing & Cruickshank. **Britannic** lost 10p to 498p, **Equity & Law** 12p to 822p, **Hambro Life** 16p to 464p, **Legal & General** 8p to 518p, **London & Manchester** 6p to 506p, **Pearl Assurance** 6p to 851p, **Prudential Corporation** 8p to 478p, **Refuge Assurance** 6p to 446p and **Sun Life** 10p to 652p.

CPS Computers is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market by way of a reverse takeover of Olympia (Redacre). Olympia will issue 20 million shares at 20p each to pay for the acquisition after which L. Messel, the broker, will place 2 million shares in the new company at 67p. This will value the entire group at £14.7m. CPS is a distributor of IBM equipment and personal computers and has seen its profit rise from £114,000 to £736,000 over the past five years, placing the shares on a price-earning ratio of 19.1

But the high street banks, due to start reporting next month, put up a firmer performance. **Royal Bank of Scotland** led the way with a rise of 10p to 234p following yesterday's article in *The Times* on a buy recommendation from the broker Laurie, Milbank. **Bank of Scotland** also rose 4p to 644p, while **Lloyds** added 5p to 549p, **Midland** 5p to 399p and **National Westminster** on 722p and **Barclays** on 527p both closed unchanged.

Aong the market's newcomers, **LPA Industries** made a smooth transfer from Rule 163 to the unlisted securities Market. The shares opened at 105p, compared with their last quoted price of 95p under Rule 163, but ended the day only 1p higher at 96p.

LPA makes electrical accessories for industrial use and was introduced to the USM by Greene & Co., a broker.

This week's other newcomer, Xyllyx rallied after Tuesday's disappointing debut, closing 5p up at 49p, but still 1p short of the placing price. Xyllyx distributes coin-operated information systems.

Mr Ian Wasserman's **GM Firth** and the board of **Porter Chadburn** have reached agreement on terms for an acquisition of Porter.

Firth and one of its directors, Mr Andrew McClue, will subscribe for a total of 1.5 million new shares between them at 75p a share. Meanwhile, Firth intends to make a bid of 88p a share for the remaining 74.7 per cent it does not already own. Associates of Firth already speak for 125,000 shares on 3.9 per cent.

This combined with the 1.5 million new shares being subscribed for by the board of Firth and Mr McClue, will give Firth 51.6 per cent of the enlarged capital. Shares of porter Chadburn rose 3p to 115p on the news but closed 2p down at 112p.

IBS dealings halted as board seeks aid

By Jonathan Clare

Share dealings in Immediate Business Systems, the troubled Unlisted Securities Market computer company, were suspended yesterday ahead of a refinancing package.

The shares were suspended at 58p: they were placed at 90p and at one stage traded at more than 300p.

City speculation suggested that a US investor might be preparing to step in. More news has been promised for next week.

A rights issue would be unpopular with shareholders because IBS made a £2.5m cash call about a year ago.

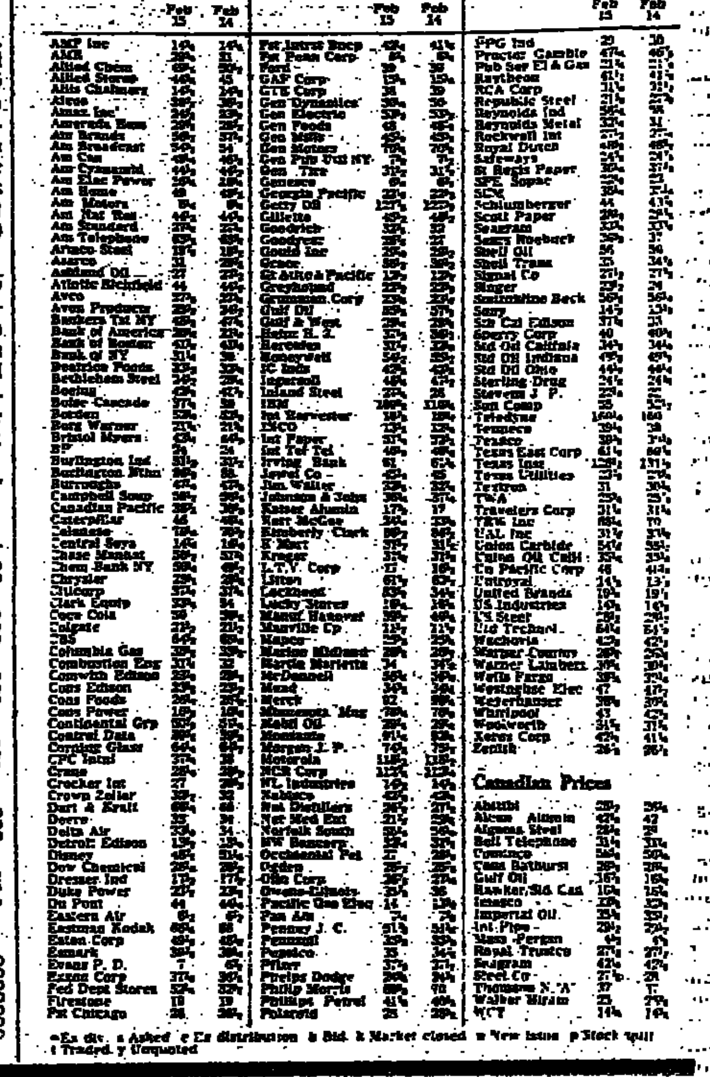
Ten days ago, the company reported a much worse than expected interim loss of £1.23m although the company was known to be under financial strain. Yesterday, Mr Graham Wylie, the finance director, said the company had been looking for financial help "in earnest" over the last two weeks.

IBS is one of a number of small computer companies which have recently run into problems. Its big hope is its Portable Billing machine.

The PBM is a £4,500 portable computer which allows meter readers to bill users of electricity or gas on the spot. But so far the company has received orders only for pilot schemes. One analyst said: "It has always been jam tomorrow." But he added that IBS had a good product. The company was the result of a £2.9m management buy-out from Plessey two years ago.

The company had not been expected to make a profit until this year but losses were expected to be gradually trimmed rather than worsen.

WALL STREET



	Feb 15	Feb 14		Feb 15	Feb 14		Feb 15	Feb 14
AMP Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fst Intrst Bncp	[illegible]	41½	PPG Ind	39	38
AMR	[illegible]	31	Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Procter Gamble	47¾	[illegible]
Allied Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ford	39	38	Pub Ser El & Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Stores	[illegible]	45	GAF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Raytheon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allis Chalmers	[illegible]	[illegible]	GTE Corp	38	39	RCA Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcoa	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Dynamics	[illegible]	56	Republic Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amax Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Electric	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Foods	48	[illegible]	Reynolds Metal	[illegible]	31
Am Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Mills	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rockwell Int	[illegible]	[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

The recent heavy shortages abated yesterday giving the discount houses breathing space. The Bank of England opened with a forecast of a £50m shortage, but that had crept to £100m by midday.

The authorities were able to take most of this out with bill purchase operations totalling £84m at the end of the morning, taking £6m of band two paper and £78m of band four at established intervention rates.

The Bank did not buy any more bills in the afternoon, but it gave late additional assistance amounting to £35m to take its total help to £119m.

Houses were able to find money comparatively cheaply over much of the session. Balances responded to bids of 9 per cent throughout the morning and into the afternoon. Then for a spell in mid-afternoon, money was answering to rates down to 8½ per cent. But things turned tighter for the close, when it became difficult to find money, even at 9½ per cent. At the outset, the Bank of England had identified the principal minus factors as £220m of maturing assistance and Treasury bill take-up, and a £15m rise in note circulation. There were offsets of £75m coming back into the market by way of Exchequer transactions along with £100m on above-target bank balances from Wednesday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

A better day for sterling against most currencies finished with a ½ cent gain on the dollar at 1.4450, and firmer levels to the Deutschmark and French francs. The closing trade weighted index was 0.3 up at 82.1.

Dealers said trade had been busy for most of the day, with a set of economic statistics from the United States helping to restore the dollar to near opening levels to continentals.

Most dealers believe that sterling's loss against some continentals has been overdone in the past few days, so a gain of 3½ centimes against French francs at 11.9050 and of 1¼ pfennigs to DM3.87 did not surprise them.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in £s per tonne;
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton;
Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
Mar	860-35
Apr	853-40
Apr Jun	848-46
Jul Sept	877-76
Oct Dec	893-91
Jan Mar	909-06
Apr Jun	932-20
Jul Sept	945-30
Oct Dec	967-40
Vol:	73
SUGAR	
Mar	122.25-22.00
May	128 75-28 25
Vol:	1711
Tone Quiet	
COCOA	
Mar	1758-56
May	1761-60
July	1753-52
Sep	1750-49
Dec	1730-27
Mar	1726-20
May	1720-16
Vol	14.303
COFFEE	
Mar	2088-86
May	1976-72
July	1875-71
Sep	1828-25
Nov	1797-96
Jan	1751-50
Mar	1720-15
Vol:	3.790

GAS OIL	
Feb	243 50-43 25
Mar	243 75-42 50
Apr	240 00-39.75
May	237 50-37.25
Jun	237.00-36.75
July	238.00-37.50
Aug	239.00-38.75
Sep	241 00-40 25
Oct	241 50-41 25
Vol.1,587	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices
Official turnover figures
Prices in pounds per metric ton
Silver in pence per troy ounce
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	1005 50-06 00
Three months	1024.50-25 00
T O	9050
Tone: Steady	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	993.00-95.00
Three months	1013 00-15.00
T O	615
Tone Steadier.	
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	0000-00
Three months	0000-00
T O	nil
Tone	
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8570-80
Three months	8690-95
T O	25
Tone: Steadier	
LEAD	
Cash	285 50 284 00
Three months	292.50-93 00
T O:	3700
Tone: Steady.	
ZINC	
Cash	680 00-82 00
Three months	678 00-79.00
T O	4350
Tone: Easier.	
SILVER Large	
Cash	631 0-32 0
Three months	646 0-47 0
T O.	89
Tone: Steady	
SILVER Small	
Cash	631.0-32.0
Three months	646 0-47 0
T O:	nil
Tone: Idle	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1038 50-39.50
Three months	1064 00-64 50
T O	13.500
Tone Steadier	
NICKEL	
Cash	3209-12
Three months	3287-89
T O.	186
Tone Steady	

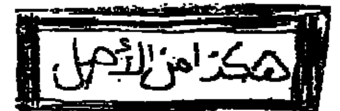
LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
In US $ per oz.

Feb	383 00-384.50
Apr	388.30-388 40
Jun	394 20-394.70
Aug	400 70-401 50
Oct	407.30-408 50
Dec	414 00-416 00
Vol	590
Tone: Quiet	

Authorized Unit Trusts

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

[illegible]



Yesterday's White Paper confirms that BT's flotation is central to Treasury's fund raising plans, Jonathan Davis reports

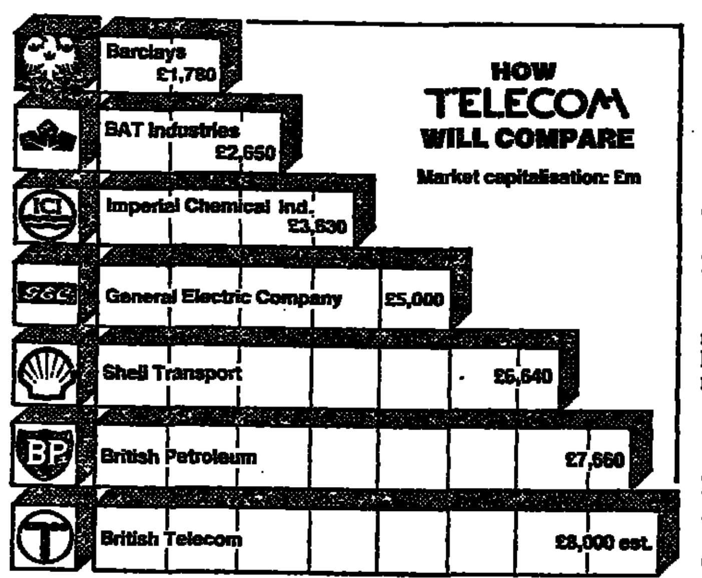
Telecom issue faces final sales hurdle

After the intesive political activity of the last two years, the Government's campaign to privatize British Telecom is now entering its last phase.

Legislation enabling privatization is still battling through a host of hostile amendments in the House of Lords, but, mostly, the rights and wrongs of turning British Telecom into a private sector company have long since been argued to death. The union campaign to block privatization has petered out, as has the spirited attempt by British Airways' chairman, Lord King, to push British Telecom out of the queue of nationalized industries waiting to be sold to the private sector.

The next seven months will see a different emphasis in the Telecom story. They will be increasingly dominated by the more pragmatic problems of marketing the largest share issue Britain has yet seen.

With a provisional market capitalization of £8 billion, Telecom is set to become the largest single company on the exchange, bigger even than BP and dwarfing all the Government's previous privatization issues. Selling this jumbo-sized corporate issue promises to be a hectic and in many ways high-risk exercise.



Yesterday's public spending White Paper confirms that the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, is banking on the flotation going through this autumn. Although the figures are not broken down, the Treasury is sticking to its assumption that selling 51 per cent of the shares – the minimum needed to take Telecom out of the public sector borrowing requirement will raise approximately £4 billion, albeit not all in one chunk.

Payments for the shares will be made in two or three instalments over 18 months to two years. The target date for flotation is the last ten days of October.

The Government has always known that selling such a huge business on the stock market was going to pose special problems. It has been recruiting an army of professional advisers to help push it through. Even at this stage, the supporting cast includes two merchant banks, at least four stockbroking firms, a public relations consultancy and the inevitable battery of lawyers and accountants.

The American investment bank, Morgan Stanley was commissioned in the autumn to prepare a report on the feasibility of issuing shares in New York at the same time as the London flotation as a means of easing the potential problem of the issue being too large for the market to digest. A team of British Telecom executives, led by Mr Deryk van der Weyer, the ex-Barclays banker, now the corporation's deputy chairman, was in New York last week taking further soundings from American institutions.

The Government is still pondering whether to try to sell the shares in Tokyo and Europe as well.

Both the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry appear to have become progressively more sanguine in recent months about the danger of the issue being too big for London to handle. The strength of world stock markets, coupled with the decision to stagger payments for the shares, have helped to make the issue look more digestible, at least for the time being.

If anything, the Government and it advisers are more exercised about finding effective ways of spreading ownership as widely as they can in this country.

A more fundamental question to be resolved before the marketing process can begin in earnest is precisely what kind of beast investors are going to be offered.

For an issue of this size, an awkward number of critical decisions still have to be taken by the Government about the structure of the corporation and the competitive environment in which it will have to operate after privatization.

British Telecom and Whitehall officials are still negotiating, for example, about how far below the rate of inflation its inland call charges should be held under the RPI-X formula which will limit the corporation's scope for price increases in the first five years of its private life.

British Telecom is believed to have been holding out for a figure of around 1 per cent below inflation, while the Gvernment has been urging a slightly higher figure. The outcome will be critical to the corporation's short-term profitability and therefore to its likely reception by the market.

The statement on future competition policy, which the Government has promised after its first tentative offering last November, will be equally important. This disclosed that Mercury will be the only rival national network operator Telecom has to face until 1990 but it left a number of other key questions unresolved.

In addition, the Government has still to publish a final version of the licence under which Telecom will operate, and to appoint the man it wants to run the Office of Telecommunications, the regulatory body which will have the crucial role of monitoring the corporation's activities for uncompetitive practices.

The cumulative effect of all these uncertainties is to make the task of valuing and pricing Telecom more than usually difficult. Both Whitehall and the bakers in the issue are aware of the need to take decisions as quickly as possible, in order that City institutions can have as long as possible to get to grips with an unusual and largely unknown corporate creature.

But the bill is not expected to receive the Royal Ascent until Easter, so there is only limited time left.

A further complication is that it is only in the last three years that British Telecom has managed to put its accounts – run for years on a simple centralized cash-flow basis deemed appropriate for a civil service department – into a form that makes conventional corporate analysis possible. The interim figure Telecom promises to prodyce by April look like being the first to be given a clean bill of health by the auditors. For the first time, they will give City analysts something to chew on.

As a monopoly, British Telecom has been highly profitable. Last year, according to its individualistic current cost accounting, it reported a pretax profit of £356m. The crucial question for the market and the Treasury, as Sir George Jefferson, Telecom's chairman, pointed out again this week, is whether the shares comes to the market regarded as a growth company in a high technology industry or as something more akin to a dull utility.

Sir George has no doubts that Telecom can be a growth stock, provided that the Government does not lumber him with a too debt heavy balance sheet, and provided the regulatory framework is not so restrictive as to hinder his scope for expansion.

In the market's eyes, much will depend on how quickly Telecom can improve its productivity over the next five years, and how quickly its 15 billion a year capital spending on modernizing its network begins to pay dividends in the form of greater profit margins.

The way they made it to No 10

By Derek Harris

Bosses and workers of 37 smaller businesses went to Downing Street last night for the fourth "reception for success" held by Mrs Thatcher for companies making a valuable contribution to Britain's industrial and commercial endeavours.

As the Prime Minister and a bevy of ministers circulated amid the cocktails to hear how the entrepreneurs had seized success, a profile emerged of the sort of enterprise which is likely to make it to such a reception at Number 10.

There were more companies involved in low and medium technology than might have been expected. Only a third of those there could be readily identified as being in the higher reaches of technology.

A third had strong export records. Seven were leaders in their field either internationally, nationally or regionally.

There was one ethnic business – and one management buy-out. The ethnic business was that of Dyke & Dryden from Tottenham in London, founded nearly 20 years ago by three West Indians to meet the hair-care needs of the black population.

It has since branched out into other beauty aids, last year winning the "Black Community Achievements Award for Industry."

Plumb Contracts of Coventry was formed last year after a management buy-out from the Owen Owen Group for £1.25m. Plumb is now one of the leading specialist interior contract furnishing companies in Britain, having gained many big contracts for commercial ventures like offices, shops, hotels and leisure complexes, both abroad and in Britain. Among the bosses were three women including Debbie Moore, managing director of London's Pineapple Dance Studios, who is among this year's nominees for the Business Woman of the Year Award. She turned a Covent Garden pineapple warehouse into a dance studio in 1979, has since opened two further centres in London, and in April opens on New York's Broadway what is being claimed as the largest dance centre in the world. Pineapple is now Europe's largest retail dancewear store.


Debbie Moore . . . opening on Broadway in April

Mrs Vivienne Flower runs Katie's Kitchen at Wembley in the London suburbs, employing 85 on producing pizzas and other fresh foods selling to most big multiple retail chains. Mrs Anne Scullion is a partner with her husband at Lisburn, Northern Ireland, where in an old stable building they started in 1981 to produce the first "real ale" in Northern Ireland for a quarter of a century.

Their Hilden ale is shortly to be bottled and sold in the British mainland market.

There were half a dozen companies which have been notably successful in traditional industrial sectors which have been having a difficult time. Huddersfield's John Crowther Group, a woollen fabrics maker faced with closure in 1981, had been successfully turned round, with turnover since up 500 per cent and jobs doubled to 370.

Mrs Thatcher had a special word for John Flood, production director of Casu Electronics at Uxbridge, Middlesex, launched in 1979 to develop and manufacture microcomputers. The Prime Minister's office uses a Casu system as part of Number 10's correspondence retrieval system.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Another way to borrow

■ For smaller companies which want the certainty of borrowing at a fixed rate but do not want to risk finding themselves locked in indefinitely if interest rates fall, Lloyds Bank has introduced a new loan scheme which goes some of the way towards meeting these objectives, writes Peter Wilson-Smith.

The Lloyds Bank Business Loan includes an interest rate conversion option which allows long-term borrowers to switch from fixed to floating interest rate or vice versa every five years.

The loans will range from £2,000 to £500,000 covering investment or working capital needs. Repayments can be tailored to meet the borrowers' needs including up to two years' grace before repayments start. Loans can be for as long as twenty years, although this is likely to be the exception rather than the rule.

The conversion option is not all to the borrower's advantage. Lloyds reserves the right to review interest rates every five years and change them in line with market conditions, although the choice of fixed or floating rate is entirely up to the customers.

There is a one per cent arrangement fee (£500 maximum) on the loans which will cost 3 to 5 per cent over base rate for floating rate loans; the present charge for fixed rate finance is 13.5 to 15.5 per cent. Lloyds also requires security for loans over ten years.

■ Harlow Enterprise Agency has been launched, offering free advice on things like cash flow, marketing and general business skills.

Among the backers are professional people and 14 local industries and organisations, including the district council and three clearing banks. Tesco Stores has seconded one of its executives, Denis Williams, to direct the agency. Tesco's headquarters are at nearby Cheshunt.

Accountants, patents experts and solicitors are among local professionals who are giving advice, either free or for a nominal fee.

MR FRIDAY Ken Pyne



'Of course I understand your problems – that's why I send my bill when you can still pay it!'

Mr Williams would like to see more local industry supporting the agency, a view shared by Mr David Trippier, the minister for Small Businesses, who at the launch stressed that local enterprise agencies depended on the backing of large companies with commercial experience to contribute. But more money was needed, too, he emphasized.

The new agency covers several smaller towns, including Bishop's Stortford, Cheshunt, Hoddesdon and Ware. Inquiries have also come from other parts of the country, and Mr Williams believes the opening of the M25 motorway and the proximity of Stansted Airport will draw small new businesses to the area.

Contact: Harlow Enterprise Agency, 19 The Rows, The High, Harlow, Essex; telephone (0279) 38077.

■ More than £1m in grants for nearly 200 small workshop conversions in derelict rural buildings have been approved since March last year by the **Development Commission**, the rural development agency for Britain.

It is the first year since its 35 per cent grant scheme for conversions has been extended from farm buildings in remote upland areas to all buildings in a wider spread of rural areas.

The commission hopes to continue the scheme beyond March next year when, on present planning, it would run out.

Contact: The Development Commission, 11 Conway Street, London SW1P 3NA; telephone (01) 222 9134.

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Johnson lifts gold medal to put the downhill experts in their place

From John Hennessy, Sarajevo

From forerunner to foremost downhill skier in the world is the metamorphosis experienced by Bill Johnson in a moment of sweet fulfillment on Mount Bjelasnica yesterday. He had been one of the racers to open the Lake Placid downhill in 1980, snow fodder for the men who really mattered. Now he had made the downhill Mafia of Austria, Switzerland and Canada, as one American colourfully dubbed them, eat their contemptuous words after his victory at Wengen last month. It is three years since a skier from another country won a downhill. Peter Mueller, of Switzerland, took the silver medal and Anton Steiner, of Austria, the bronze.

This is only Johnson's third season in Europe, having missed the 1981-82 season for disciplinary reasons. He is something of a free spirit, "basically able to do anything I want". He modestly claims. The quarrel with authority has been patched up and yesterday he was the hero of the American hour.

Johnson's first World Cup victory, in Wengen, was greeted with derision because of the freak conditions, but a fourth place at Cortina a week or two ago "solidified that I'm one of the top racers in the world. They had to learn to respect me". He admits to being a daredevil, but "everyone is in the downhill. It takes quite a bit to throw yourself down a mountain".

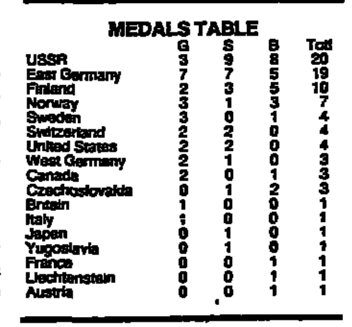
Since arriving here Johnson has thrown himself down Mount Bjelasnica so impressively as to become the favourite for the Olympic title. "Johnson's a glider", Steve Podborski, the leading Canadian, finally admitted. "He's got the best chance." Certainly the conditions created by new snow suited Johnson, who is from the west coast of the United States and does not take kindly to ice, more commonly found in the East.

An intermediate time placed Johnson 0.19 secs behind Pirmin Zurbriggen, but the American showed greater drive lower down. The first of the two testing bumpy stretches, which arrow the skiers into thrilling orbit, was a little untidy, but the second, more demanding, was taken in perfect control, with an immediate return to the tuck position. Thereafter it was downhill all the way, so to speak.

This was the easiest course the main exponents of downhill will meet all season, on the short side and technically straightforward, as is commonly the case in the Olympics to accomodate skiers from contries where snow is notable only for dislocation of traffic.

It is also the easiest race to lose, for one mistake can be crucial. "You can spend all your life preparing for this one big shot", Johnson points out, "and blow it in the blinking of an eye." There was no blinking on his part yesterday.

Mueller had the best intermediate time and a man of his vast experience might have been expected to hang on, but the lower part of the course caught him out. Steiner, similarly, could not match Johnson's drive in the lower reaches.



MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B	Totl
USSR	4	7	9	20
East Germany	7	7	5	19
Finland	2	3	3	8
Norway	2	3	1	6
Sweden	3	0	1	4
Switzerland	2	2	1	5
United States	2	2	0	4
West Germany	2	0	1	3
Canada	2	0	1	3
Czechoslovakia	0	1	2	3
Britain	1	0	0	1
Italy	1	0	0	1
Japan	0	1	0	1
Yugoslavia	0	1	0	1
France	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1

The popular favourite, Franz Klammer, of Austria, looked rather like yesterday's man. He won the 1976 title in such spectacular style that he became a living legend. Even his exclusion from the Austrian team in 1980 could not destroy his reputation, but he never promised to achieve his ambition of a second title. He was desperately untidy through the passage of six giant slalom-type gates.

Martin Bell, the principal British entry, did not disgrace himself for he finished eighteenth, with a number of distinguished skiers in his wake. It was not as statistically arresting as Konrad Bartelski's twelfth place in Lake Placid. But at 19 he has time on his side.



Michela Figini flies downhill to become the youngest winner of an Olympic Alpine title.

Gallery packed for mountain extravaganza

From David Miller Sarajevo

We awake in the city and there is mist. From the downhill summit the course stewards, who rise before dawn each day, announce that at last the prospects are good. Thousands of buses and ramshackle taxis once more start the long grind up to Bjelasnica.

At the start, which funnels out of the roof of a little restaurant like some industrial sluice, the temperature is minus 10°C even though, by mid-morning, the sun is bathing this beautiful mountain and spotlighting the multitude of photographers dotted along the borders of the run, buttercup yellow in their uniform anoraks.

Winding their way down past the two big jumps which dominate the last quarter of the course come a hundred soldiers in khaki with aluminium bucket-shovels, singing a haunting folk song which echoes round the slopes. They have done their work.

Spectators in long black ribbons are struggling upwards outside the orange safety fencing, often knee-deep in soft snow on a one-in-two slope, in search of superior viewing points. Including the crowd down in the apron surrounding the finishing line, there will be an estimated 30,000 on the mountain for the most celebrated event of the Games, many, at the top and mid sections, themselves on skis.

Half a mile up the course, long before the start, the mountain air is overcome by the aromas of garlic sausage and bitter-sweet slivovic, together with lungs-full of acrid cigarette smoke. Many of the trees provide dress-circle seats.

Helicopters come and go from the car park area, dousing everyone within a hundred yards in snow-spray and rudely blowing over two huge hot-air advertising balloons, which roll about on top of parked cars like drunken dancers before finally collapsing.

Above us, the mountain towers like a vast wedding cake with tens of thousands of white candles. The treeline extends more than two-thirds of the way to the top and the snow is thick. Even on the course, marshals making last-minute inspections send a plume like waterskiers every time they do a stem turn. It is certainly not a fast course, by comparison with most World Cup venues.

Other stewards, nonchalantly side-slipping down 50-degree gradients, sprinkle fir twig just off the ski-line between gates to give the competitors a focus point on the white blur when hurtling downwards at more than 60 mph.

Now the moment arrives. The forerunners have test-skied the course; the photographers wait, vulture-like. In the freezing sunshine at the summit, where frost is inches deep on chair-lift pylons, Gary Athans, of Canada, kicks through the gate, turns sharp left on one of the few icy corners. Can North America break the European stranglehold?

From the chairlift, sometimes rising high above the trees, there is a wonderful view of the skiers as they swoop over the first third of the course, which to the innocent holiday skier seems as precipitous as the dome of St Paul's; then on down the gullies carved through the forest, flying like swallows yet always on a razor's edge.

I watch the critical first 15 competitors from the two jumps some 20 seconds from the finish. Can Franz Klammer achieve the unique Olympic double, following his remarkable 1976 run? But when his blue-clad figure comes in sight, third man down, we already know he is three-tenths of a second behind the second-interval time of Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, just before him. Klammer rockets over the jumps, landing some 60 metres beyond: but the dream is over.

Mair of Italy and Cathomen of Switzerland follow. Then Johnson of America, the slightly brash, blue-eyed national champion of 1983. His white-and-pink barber-stripe suit catches the sun, he shoots past . . . and is gone, a diminishing, crouched figure, fly-like by the time he crosses the line. His time is 1.5 seconds inside Klammer's, half a second better than Zubriggen. We know he is the man to beat.

Mueller, of Switzerland, starting eleventh, gets closest, but the relatively soft and easy course has suited Johnson. "It was not the mountain that beat me, it was the snow", complains Klammer, the ice demon, while Mueller insists: "Johnson was the best today – but not the best in the world."

It has been a heavy blow to Swiss/Austrian dignity, not to say industry. "A minor catastrophe", Klammer reflects. But he still has his hotel, bought following his gold medal.

"I motored on the flats", Johnson says, which seems to summarize this downhill sensation. He does not think it was much fun, just a job.



Victory salute: Bill Johnson holds the US flag aloft after winning the men's downhill.

A big step up for Miss Witt

From John Hennessy

Katarina Witt, of East Germany, skated a brilliant short programme yesterday to move up two places and take the lead from Rosalynn Sumners, of the United States, the world champion, in the Zetra stadium. Elena Vodoreza, the Russian champion, provides the middle of the sandwich.

The only woman, it seems who can now beat Miss Witt is Miss Witt. Her free skating, on yesterday's evidence, should be superior to that of an uninspired Miss Sumners, and Tiffany Chin, a delightfully elfin 15-year-old American, is too far back to mount a challenge.

Miss Witt, dressed up like a Christmas tree, wore a tiara, perhaps to symbolize her imminent ascendancy to this throne. Appropriately, she skated like a queen, with a glittering triple toe loop in the combination jump and no trace of error in any of the other elements.

Miss Sumners, on the other hand, touched down with her free foot on the double axel, travelled conspicuously on her spins and gained little altitude in the flying sit-spins. She was only fifth and thereby sacrificed 1.6 points to Miss Witt.

Miss Chin was placed second in the short and was even preferred to Miss Witt by one judge, from Switzerland, but her fallibility in the compulsory figures leaves her too high a mountain to climb.

FOOTBALL

Blackburn bank on a large cup crowd

Blackburn expect to have double their average attendence for today's FA Cup fifth round tie with Southampton at Ewood Park, even though it will be broadcast on television. "Leaving home on a cold night isn't easy when the match is being televised, but football needs atmosphere" said Bobby Saxton, Blackburn's manager. "Cameras are no substitute for the special feeling of a big game and I hope people will come along to sample it. It's vital for the players and the occasion as a whole. I believe we could have a gate of around 15,000.

"We realise Southampton are the cup favourites and I think it's justified, but Carlisle and Rotherham both beat them in the Milk Cup."

Although Blackburn are unbeaten in their last 16 matches, attendances have dropped below 6,000 for half their 16 home games this season.

Blackburn won the FA Cup six times in 44 years around the turn of the century, including three in a row from 1884 to 1886, but their only win in the last 56 years was the third division title which they took in 1975. Saton admitted: "Blackburn's past is sometimes a problem for me but one that I relish.

"It could be the year for a second division club to win at Wembley," said Saxton. "There have been so many surprises which shows the gap between the respective divisions has narrowed dramatically in the last 10 years.

Blackburn will be without Barker, their 19-year-old midfield player, who broke a little toe in training and missed last Saturday's 1-1 draw at Derby.

Blackburn's goalkeeper, Tony Gennoe, played for Southampton against Nottingham Forest in the 1979 League Cup Final. Southampton will be at full strength and manager Lawrie McMenemy warned: "We thought going to Portsmouth in the fourth round was tough. This one is going to be tougher.

● *Two Southern League Midland* Division clubs have new managers. Ian Cooper, the former manager of Sutton Coldfield Town and Telford United, succeeds Graham Newton at Willenhall Town, and Wilf Tranter, the former Manchester United, Brighton and Fulham player and recently manager of Witney Town, replaces Philip Lines at Banbury United.

Club chiefs and ITV in another conflict

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

The war between the Football League and the television companies may have ended last summer but another battle broke out yesterday. The two sides involved are the chairmen of the first and second division clubs and ITV, whose Sunday programme was kept off the air for four months during an internal dispute.

The chairmen, after their meeting in London, asked ITV to increase their coverage to three games each weekend for the rest of the season to make up for the revenue lost from perimeter advertising and shirt sponsorship. The strike, they said, had cost the clubs "a fortune" but, although the request was accompanied by a veiled threat, it was refused.

An ITV spokesman said: "We cannot extend the running time of our recorded highlights because our networked schedules are worked out so far in advance and are so complex that it would be impossible to do so. In editorial quality terms, we could not do justice to three games in an hour".

Graham Kelly, secretary of the League, admitted that it was ironic that the clubs were now calling for more football on television. Last summer during the acrimonious debate before a deal, worth £5.2m over two years, was signed, many said that they preferred it to be barred.

He said: "we are in an experimental stage with live television and, if that proves successful, as we believe it has been for television, then presumably they would want that to continue. We don't talk lightly about threats. It is more a question of a goodwill gesture by ITV, and so far they seem unwilling."

Jack Dunnett, president of the League, added that "the meeting expressed the feeling that the strike might have been settled sooner." The ITV spokesman replied that "while we have much sympathy with the League, the strike was a union matter which was totally out of our control".

The chairmen were also reminded that seven of the recommendations included in Sir Norman Chester's report had still not been implemented. One of them concerns the structure of the League.

Barton frustrated by a comedy of errors

By Stuart Jones

The two Milk Cup semi-finals this week might have been staged in different worlds rather than merely in different Parks. At Fellows on Tuesday, the air was heady, as though Liverpool and Walsall were frolicking at high altitude. At Goodison on Wednesday, it was claustrophobic, as though Everton and Aston Villa were stuck underground.

The contrast between the two pairs standing on Wembley's doorstep was perhaps predictable. Since Liverpool, the holders who reached the final for the fourth successive year, and Walsall are both standing on top of their respective League tables, they could afford to have faith in their abilities and go forward without fear.

Villa and Everton, lying twelfth and thirteenth in the first division, have no such confidence. Each individual appeared to be more concerned about imprisoning his direct opponent than releasing his own ideas. The pitch seemed to be filled with a collection of ballroom dancers clinging tenaciously to their partners.

Everton may be the only side yet to be beath in any cup time this season but they have probably lost Richardson for tomorrow's fixture against Shrewsbury Town. He became their hero by scoring the second goal and was then fortunate to escape becoming the villain when he "saved" Shaw's last-minute effort on the line.

Richardson was aware that he was in considerable pain throughout the last hour. Only afterwards, however, did he discover that his *right wrist was not merely fractured* but also dislocated. Seldom does a scorer refuse the congratulations of his colleagues, but it is clear now why he told them all "to keep away".

Tony Barton, Villa's manager, admitted that "two goals is big target to pull back but it is not beyond us. I saw nothing to make us fear the second leg at home next Wednesday". He added that he could not understand how the referee failed to award "such a blatant penalty. It was sickening."

Having seen his defence also give Everton the lead through a "stupid comedy of errors", the frustration of Barton, who took Villa to a European Cup triumph in his opening season, is understandable. That one decision could have cost his side a final appearance at Wembley.

Iley sacked by Bury

Bury have sacked their manager Jim Iley after winning only one of their last nine league games.

Iley aged 44, was appointed manager in 1980 after the club had been relegated to the fourth division. Bury have failed to achieve promotion since although they narrowly missed it last season, losing their last game to let in Scunthorpe. "I want to stay in football and I'll be back" Iley said. His assistant, Wilf McGuinness, is in charge for Saturday's home game against Hartlepool.

Ron Noades, chairman of Crystal Palace, is happy to let Peter Nicholas stay in the Welsh squad for the match against Scotland on February 28, despite the recent dispute between the club and the Welsh FA.

Nicholas was out for five weeks after being injured while playing against Bulgaria in November, and Palace demanded compensation

FA seeking charter to ease 'pyramid' problems

By Paul Newman

Senior semi-professional leagues throughout the country are to be asked by the Football Association to sign a "charter of football". The charter will document the promotion and relegation links that leagues have established with each other and which constitute the new "pyramid" structure of non-League football. It follows pressure from many leagues on the FA to resolve some of the problems that have arisen over the setting up of the pyramid, which enables clubs to progress through promotion to *leagues of higher status.*

Apart from the Northern League, which, because of its geographical position in the north-east, wants to remain outside the structure, every senior league now has a in the pyrmaid. For example, the Isthmian, Southern and Northern Premier leagues can each provide one promoted club each season to the Alliance Premier League, which is at the top of the pyramid.

Some leagues and clubs, however, have been reluctant to support the system. Some Midlands clubs, for example, believe their best representatives outside the Alliance League should be in a specifically Midlands league: at present, they are split mostly between the Southern, Northern Premier, West Midlands and Northern Counties East league. An attempt has been made recently by the Central Midlands League to form such a league next season, but it would seriously weaken both the other leagues in the area and the whole pyramid structure.

In the south-east, the Isthmian and Athenian leagues have failed to reach full agreement on the formation of a new Isthmian division next season. Most of the new clubs will come from the Athenian, but because the Isthmian will not accept every Athenian club, the Athenian League – to the annoyance of the Isthmian League – may remain in existence next season outside the pyramid.

The FA have actively supported the formation of the pyramid, but have never laid down rules by which leagues should abide. Leagues within the pyramid want the FA to take a tougher line with leagues such as the Central Midlands and Athenian: feel they have made substantial sacrifices for the sake of the pyramid and deserve stronger *support in defence of it.*

The charter will not force leagues to come into line, but the FA hope it will strengthen the pyramid. Adrian Titcombe, the FA official behind the setting up of the pyramid, said: "The charter puts into black and white the principles of the pyramid structure and tries to formalize the relationships between leagues. It involves a commitment by leagues. They undertake certain fundamental principles with regard to promotion and relegation. If a dispute arises we can go back to what was previously agreed, but leagues won't be forced to do anything."

● Bob Murphy, the former Mossley manager, has been appointed manager of another Northern Premier League club, Southport. He succeeds Alex Gibson, who had been in full charge of the team for less than two months.

● Whickham, the 1981 winners of the FA Vase, and Stamford, the 1980 winners, are through to this season's quarter-finals.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Leyton-Wingate v Whickham; Stamford v Stavely Works; Old Georgians v Stanford; Irthlingborough Diamonds v Brandon.

● Workington, the Northern Premier League club, are discussing ground-sharing with the town's Rugby League club.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	180	280	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	-8C
Good skiing on all pistes							
Arosa	140	190	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-9C
Powder on north facing slopes							
Courmayeur	200	300	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-3C
Excellent conditions							
Grindelwald	50	160	Good	Varied	Good	Sun	-3C
Excellent skiing everywhere							
Igls	70	160	Good	Heavy	Good	Fine	-4C
Good skiing on all pistes							
Isola 2000	100	120	Fair	Crust	Good	Fine	-1C
Interesting off-piste skiing							
Klosters	138	200	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-7C
Still some excellent powder							
La Plagne	75	175	Good	Heavy	Good	Fine	0C
Icy patches on lower slopes							
Mürren	160	225	Good	Varied	Worn	Fine	-6C
Lower slopes rather worn							
St Anton	180	400	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-8C
Powder on north facing slopes							
Seefel	140	220	Good	Heavy	Good	Cloud	-4C
Thin powder on hard base							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from a tourist board.

SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Adelboden	80	150	Pwdr	–	–10
Braunwald	170	220	Pwdr	–	–14
Champery	30	150	Pwdr	–	–6
Chateau d'Oex	100	130	Pwdr	–	–12
Davos	110	190	Pwdr	–	–19
Disentis	140	230	Pwdr	–	–12
Engleberg	80	180		–	–
Gstaad	70	160	Pwdr	–	–15
Kandersteg	60	130	Pwdr	–	–14
Lanx-Films	130	230	Pwdr	–	–8
Lenk	70	180	Pwdr	–	–10
Lenzerheide	160	220	Pwdr	–	–12
Les Diablerets	100	150	Pwdr	–	–11
Leysin	90	150	Pwdr	–	–10
Montana	130	250	Pwdr	–	–7
Pontresina	50	100	Pwdr	–	–25
Sass-Fee	90	180	Pwdr	–	–10
St Gergue	110	140	Pwdr	–	–10
St Moritz					
Savognin	60	120	Pwdr	–	–15
Unterwasser	90	160	Pwdr	–	–16
Verbier	70	200	Pwdr	–	–11
Villars	150	300	Pwdr	–	–9
Wengen	80	150	Pwdr	–	–11
Zermatt	100	150	Pwdr	–	–13

ITALY

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Abetone	80	180	–	–	–
Bardonecchia	40	140	–	–	–
Bormio	40	140	–	–	–
Canazei	35	120	–	–	–
Cervinia	150	300	–	–	–
Claviere	90	120	–	–	–
Cortina	65	85	–	–	–
Corvara	–	–	–	–	–
Livigno	80	100	–	–	–
Macugnaga	30	150	–	–	–
Madesimo	90	130	–	–	–
Madonna di C	70	110	–	–	–
Ortisei	20	90	–	–	–
San Martino	70	70	–	–	–
Sauze d'Oulx	40	80	–	–	–
Selva	30	100	–	–	–
Sestriere	50	100	–	–	–
Vipiteno	15	80	–	–	–

FRANCE

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Avoriaz	70	250	–	–	
Alpe d'Huez	–	–	–	–	–
Chamonix	105	300	–	–	
Courchevel	–	–	–	–	
Flaine	225	360	–	–	
La Clusaz	130	250	–	–	
La Daille	–	–	–	–	
Le Corbier	150	300	–	–	
Les Arcs	155	235	–	–	–
Les Contamines	130	350	–	–	
Les Duex Alpes	–	–	–	–	–
Les Gets	–	–	–	–	–
Les Houches	–	–	–	–	–
Megève	175	235	–	–	
Méribel	140	230	–	–	
Montgenèvre	100	150	–	–	
Morzine	100	300	–	–	
Pra-Loup	85	100	–	–	
St Gervais	60	220	–	–	
Superdévoluy	130	250	–	–	
Tignes	185	330	–	–	
Val d'Isère	140	390	–	–	

GERMANY

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Berchtesgaden	50	–	Pwdr	–	–9
Garmisch	70	–	Pwdr	–	–10
Hindemith	–	–	–	–	–
Kleinwalsertal	–	–	–	–	–
Mittenwald	80	–	Pwdr	–	–10
Obergammerau	–	–	–	–	–
Aberjoch	170	–	Pwdr	–	–16
Aberstaufen	100	–	Pwdr	–	–18
Oberstdorf	–	–	–	–	–

Spinks defends

New York (Reuter) – Michael Spinks, the undisputed light-heavyweight world champion, will make his ninth defence when he meets Eddie Davis, a fellow American, in a 12-round bout in Atlantic City on February 25.

Pearce is rated

David Pearce, the British heavyweight champion, has been given a No 7 cruiserweight rating by the WBA. He could meet the winner of next month's world title bout between Osvaldo Ocasio (Puerto Rico) and John Odhiambo

WINTER OLYMPIC RESULTS

ALPINE SKIING

Men's Downhill: 1, W Johnson (US), 1 min 45.59 sec; 2, P Mueller (Switz), 1:45.86; 3, A Steiner (Austria), 1:45.95; 4, P Zurbriggen (Switz), 1:46.05; equal 5, U Raeber (Switz), H Hoeflehner (Austria), 1:46.32; 7, S Wildgruber (WG), 1:46.58; 8, S Podborski (Can), 1:46.59; , T Brooker (Can), 1:46.64; 10, F Klammer (Austria), 1.47.04. British placings: 18, M Bell, 1:48.00; 32, G Bell, 1:50.06; 33, C O'Brien, 1:50.36; 37, F Burton, 1:51.15.

Women's downhill: 1, M Figini (Switz), 1 min 13.36 sec; 2, M Walliser (Switz), 1:13.41; 3, O Charvatova (Cz), 1:13.53; 4, A Ehrat (Switz), 1:13.95; 5, J Gantnerova (Cz), 1:14.14; equal 6, M Kiehl (WG), G Sorensen (Can), 1:14.30; 8, L Soelkner (Austria), 1:14.39; 9, E Kirchler (Austria), 1:14.55; 10, V Wallinger (Austria), 1:14.76.

SPEED SKATING

Men's 1,500 metres: 1, G Boucher (Can), 1 min 58.36 sec; 2, S Khlebnikov (USSR), 1:58.83; 3, O Bogiev (USSR), 1:58.89; 4, H Van Helden (Fr), 1:59.39; 5, A Ehrig (EG), 1:59.41; 6, A Dietel (EG), 1:59.73; 7, H van der Duim (Neth), 1:59.77; 8, V Shasherin (USSR), 1:59.81; 9, P, Nittyla (Fin), 2:00.01; 10, F Schalij (Neth), 2:00.14. British placing: 39, B Carbis, 2:13.25.

NORDIC SKIING

MEN'S 4x10km CROSS-COUNTRY RELAY: 1, Sweden 1hr 55mins, 06.30sec; 2, Soviet Union 1:55:16.50; 3, Finland 1:56:31.40; 4, Norway 1:57:27.60; 5, Switzerland 1:58:06.00; 6, West Germany 1:59:30.20; 7, Italy 1:59:30.30; 8, United States 1:59:52.30; 9, East Germany 2:02:13.90; 10, Bulgaria 2:03:17.60. Other placing: 14, Britain 2:10:09.90.

FIGURE SKATING

WOMEN'S EVENT: (after short programme): 1, K Witt (EG) 2.2pts; 2, R Summers (US) 2.6; 3, K Ivanova (USSR) 4.2; 4, E Vodorezova (USSR) 4.4; 5, A Kondrasheva (USSR) 5.8; 6, S Cariboni (Switz) 8.0; 7, M Ruben (WG) 8.0; 8, T Chin (US) 8.0; 9, S Dubravcic (Yug) 8.4; 10, C Leistner (WG) 9.4. British placing: 17, G Jackson 18.2.

ICE HOCKEY

WINTER OLYMPICS (Wednesday results): Group B (fifth and final round): Czechoslovakia 4, Canada 0; Austria 6, Norway 5; Finland 3, United States 3; Poland 8, Yugoslavia 1; Soviet Union 10, Sweden 1; West Germany 9, Italy 7.

Today's events

Biathlon: 4 x 7.5km relay
Skiing: women's slalom
Bobsleigh: four-man (first runs)
Ice hockey: Final round, first series: Czechoslovakia v Sweden and Canada v Soviet Union; fifth place game, seventh place game.

BBC1-TV: 1-1.45pm (slalom, bobsleigh); 6.40-7.05pm (round up); 10.50-11.20pm (ice hockey)

Olympic effort

Clarissa Strachan is trying for a place in the Olympic equestrian team after being out of competition for three months with a broken neck. She has just taken off the plaster, and has been told she can ride again in six to eight weeks. A member of Britain's gold medal 1977 European championship team, she will ride Interceptor Alarms Delphy Dazzle at either the Punchestown or Fontainebleau three-day event in May.

IN BRIEF

RACKETS: Richard Gracey and Martin Smith, the veteran campaigners from Tonbridge, fended off a tough challenge from James Male and Julian Snow, the young Radley pair, in the quarter finals of the Celextion amateur doubles championship at Queens' Club on Wednesday, William Stephens writes. They won by 15-6, 15-4, 12-15, 12-15, 15-10, 15-7.

BADMINTON: The Scotland squads for Thomas Cup and Uber Cup qualifying matches in Belgium from February 23 to 26 are:
MEN: W Gilliland (Romford), G Hamilton (Edinburgh), K Middlemiss (Edinburgh), I Pringle (Paisley), D Travers (Largs), A White (Kilmarnock).
WOMEN: E Allen (Edinburgh), L Baker (Largs), S Bell (Paisley), A Fulton (Guildford), P Hamilton (Guildford), M Johnson (Edinburgh).

SKIING: The Scottish cross-country championships start tomorrow in Glenshee with Ewan Mackenzie (Aviemore), runner-up in the United Kingdom championships, the favourite. His closest rival is likely to be Andrew Main, a former Olympic biathlete.

TENNIS: France's Davis Cup team have arrived in New Delhi without Yannick Noah, giving themselves more than a week to prepare for their group first round tie against India, starting on February 24. Noah will join them after playing at Palm Springs, in the United States.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

FA Cup
Fifth round
Blackburn Rovers v Southampton (7.15)
Scottish first division
Raith Rovers v Alloa Athletic
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Burton v Grantham; Mossley v Worksop
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Swansea v Fulham (3.0)

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Bath v Bridgend (7.15); Bedford v London Scottish (7.15); Coventry v Northampton (7.15); Glamorgan Wanderers v Newbridge (6.30); Gloucester v Nottingham (7.0); London Irish v Old Belvedere (2.45); Maesteg v Narbonne (7.0); Mossley v Abertillery; Penarth v Tredegar (7.0); Wasps v Fylde

RUGBY LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Great Britain v France (at Headingley)

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S JUNIOR TERRITORIAL TOURNAMENT (at Lytham St Annes): North v Midlands (1.0); West v South (2.0); East v North (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: National League: second division: Camden v Brunel Ducks (at Uxbridge, 8.0)
BADMINTON: Surrey Championships (at Wimbledon S and BC, 5pm)
SQUASH RACKETS: Jesters Trophy (at Heathfield SRC, Brondesbury Park, London, Finals 6.30); International Challengers Vase qualifying rounds (at Abbeydale Park SRC, Sheffield and St Mellons SC, Cardiff, 7.0); British doubles championship (South Marston SRC, Swindon, 5.0

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Solent Stars 111 (Johnson 32), Doncaster 81 (Streater 26); Hemel Hempstead 88 (Smith 33) Warrington 96 (Bona 31); Crystal Palace 88 (McCray 27) Birmingham Bullets 74 (Owens 22).

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	L	Pts
Solent	29	27	2	54
C. Palace	31	21	10	42
Bracknell	31	20	11	40
Warrington	29	19	10	38
Sunderland	29	19	10	38
Leicester	30	19	11	37*
Birmingham	30	15	15	30
Manchester	31	14	17	28
Kingston	30	13	17	26
Brighton	31	12	19	24
Hemel Hempstead	31	11	20	22
Doncaster	29	4	25	8
Bolton	29	1	28	2

(*1pt deducted for fielding ineligible player)
EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP: Semi-final: first leg: Scavolini Pallacanestro Pesaro (It) 76, Simac Milan 78; Cibona Zagreb 89, Real Madrid 91.
KORAC CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Orthez (Fr) 75, Antibes (Fr) 88; Red Star Belgrade 130, Cai Zaragoza 100.
RONCHETTI CUP: Semi-finals, leg: Vozdovac Belgrade 59, SS Bata Roma 85; Racing Club de Paris 75, BSE Budapest 70.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Cleveland Cavaliers 104, Phoenix Suns 90; Milwaukee Bucks 107, Indiana Pacers 91; San Antonio Spurs 114, New Jersey Nets 108; Seattle Supersonics 116, Washington Bullets 99; Dallas Mavericks 119, Philadelphia 76-ers 116 (2 ot's).
Tuesday's games: Cleveland Cavaliers 103, New Jersey Nets, 93; Chicago Bulls 112, San Diego Clippers 99; Milwaukee Bucks 92, Phoenix Suns 83; New York Knicks 106, Kansas City Kings 100; Detroit Pistons 126, Houston Rockets 119; Washington Bullets 106, Denver Nuggets 96; Utah Jazz 100, Atlanta Hawks 98; Golden State Warriors 105, Seattle Supersonics 102.

GOLF

SINGAPORE: Open women's tournament: First round leaders: 70: M Ishikawa (Jap). 71: C Flom (US). 72: H Yueh Chyn (Tai). 73: D Heinicke (US), I Ikebuchi (Jap), A Nakano (Jap). 74: L Alderete (US), D Dowling (GB), D Lavigne (Can), S Austin (US), Tsai Li Hsiang (Tai). Other GB placings: 76: B Huke. 80: A Wynn, D Reid, 82: B Cooper.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Buffalo Sabres 7, Boston Bruins 4; St. Louis Blues 4, Detroit Red Wings 3; New York Rangers 3, New York Islanders 2; Minnesota North Stars 3, Toronto Maple Leafs 0; Chicago Black Hawks 5, Quebec Nordiques 2; Edmonton Oilers 7, Winnipeg Jets 4; New Jersey Devils 6, Los Angeles Kings 4; Montreal Canadiens 5, Hartford Whalers 3.

CYCLING

MILAN: Six-day race: Leading standings during sixth leg: 1, F Moser (It)/R Pijnen (Neth), 251 pts; 2, H Schutz (WG) and R Hermen (Lux), 195; 3, A Doyle (GB)/G Wiggins (Aus), 117; one lap behind: 4, U Freuler (Switz)/G Saronni (It), 294; 5, D Thurau (WG)/G Bontempi (It), 136; two laps behind: 6, D Gisiger (Switz)/M Bidinost (It), 152; 7, D Clark (Aus)/P Bincoletto (It), 75; three laps behind: 8, J Kristen (WG)/D Morandi (It), 126; five laps behind: 9, H Havik (Neth)/H Hindelang (WG), 92; eleven laps behind: 10, H Rinklin (WG)/*G Mantovani (It), 92.*

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Aberavon 8, Ebbw Vale 0; Bath 35, RAF 4; Bristol 52, Royal Navy 7; Cardiff 17, Newbridge 9; Cross Key 58, Newport 16; Llanelli 57, Pembroke 13; Lydney 15, Maesteg 7; Neath 1, Pontypridd 6; Pontypool 25, South Wales Police 16; Oxford University 9, Dublin University 13; Esher 0, St Mary's Hospital 3.
Hospital Cup: Semi final round: Royal Free 12, Westminster 9.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Oxford University 9, Dublin University 13.

FOOTBALL

MIDWEEK LEAGUE CUP: Northampton 1, Bournemouth 2.

BOXING

LAS VEGAS: US Featherweight championship: Irving Mitchell bt Refugio Rojas, pts. Light welterweight: Saoul Mamby bt Roberto Juarez, pts.

TABLE TENNIS

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: West Germany 1, Great Britain 6; Hungary 3, Poland 4; Czechoslovakia 4, France 3; Yugoslavia 4, Sweden 3.

TENNIS

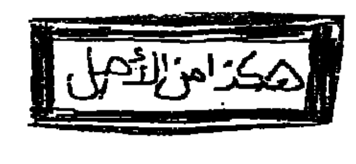
SYDNEY: Gold Challenge tournament: J McEnroe (US) bt M Wilander (Swe) 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; G Vilas (Arg) bt I Lendl (Cz) 2-6, 6-0, 7-6, 6-0.

SNOOKER

ABERTILLERY: National Express women's grand prix: S Foster (Tamworth) bt S Newbury (Neath) 4-2.
READING: A Knowles (Bolton) drew with D Taylor (Blackburn) 5-5; W Werbeniuk (Can) bt J White (Tooting) 6-4, E Charlton (Aus) bt J Spencer (Manchester) 7-3; J Virgo (Shepperton) *bt A Higgins (Manchester) 6-4.*

WEDNESDAY'S FOOTBALL

MILK CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Everton 2, Aston Villa 0.
SECOND DIVISION: Leeds United 1, Swansea City 0.
THIRD DIVISION: Oxford United 2, Wimbledon 0.
FOURTH DIVISION: Hartlepool United 2, Crewe Alexandra 1; Hereford United 2, Swindon Town 1; Reading 1, Peterborough United 1.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Bob Lord Trophy, third round, first leg: Barnet 1, Enfield 1. Second leg: Yeovil 1, Kidderminster 1 (abandoned at half-time – fog).
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Southern division: Dunstable 0, Andover 4.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool 2, Burnley 1; Stoke 1, Sheffield United 1. Second division: Bradford City 0, Coventry 2.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers 1, Brighton 4; Ipswich 2, Southampton 2; Leicester 1, Millwall 2; Leicester 1, Millwall 2; Tottenham 3, Queen's Park Rangers 0.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Chesham United 3, Maidenhead United 0; Feltham 2, Farnborough Town 1. Second Division: Molesey 0, Uxbridge 1.
SCOTTISH CUP: Third round replays: Kilmarnock 1, Aberdeen 3; Stirling Albion 1, Inverness Caledonian 2 (aet).
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION: Hibernian 0, Dundee 0 (abandoned after 25 minutes – fog).
SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION: East Stirlingshire 0, Dunfermline 2; Montrose 0, Stenhousemuir 0; Stranraer 0, Arbroath 1.
INTERNATIONAL: Bulgaria 2, West Germany 3.
DUTCH CUP: Ajax 1, Feyenoord 2 (aet).
PORTUGUESE CUP: Elvas 0, Vizela 0 (aet); Estoril 1, Rio Ave 1 (aet); *Torreense 0*, FC Porto 1 (aet); Guimaraes 1, Pacos De Ferreira 0.



Rugby Union: Campbell pulls out of Irish side with infection: Wales get a tonic from their hooker and captain



Underwood and Barley, young men on the ball who hope to have a hand in an England victory (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Ward's thrusts can threaten England

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The embattled Irish, two defeats to the bad and in the process of changing an aging team, sustained another blow yesterday when Campbell, their stand-off half, withdrew from the side to play England at Twickenham tomorrow. His place goes to Ward, who will win his fifteenth cap and who replaced Campbell in the closing stages of last season's game with England.

Campbell missed the first half of this season after contracting a blood disease and still lacked his usual sparkle in the first two championship matches. He has been feeling unwell over the last fortnight and yesterday, after consultation with Michael Molloy, the Irish Rugby Union doctor, withdrew when the team assembled for training in Dublin. Ward's place as a replacement goes to Condon, the London Irish stand-off.

It is not uncommon for players to lose form the season after a Lions tour, but in Campbell's instance the malaise appears to go deeper than that.

His withdrawal follows that earlier in the week of Slattery, who is due to enter hospital for blood tests though there was some comfort for Ireland when Ringland, the right wing, passed a fitness test on a groin strain.

In 22 matches for his country Campbell has scored 217 points but he hands over the kicking duties to a player who is equally skilled. Ward, moreover, is a typically Celtic runner who may ask more questions of England's defence, with the ball in hand, than Campbell.

Both were together in Ireland's back division in 1981 against England, when Cooke, the Harlequins flanker, played a full international season. Cooke has been prevented from adding to his four caps by the form of Winterbottom but he joined the England squad in training at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, yesterday as a full member of the side after three years away.

England's training was remarkable for the amount of free running in which the backs indulged and for the evident desire of the forwards for scrummaging. At one stage they were opposed by an 11-man pack, including the three replacement forwards, Rendall, the Wasps prop who had agreed to make up a practice front row, the physiotherapist and chairman of selectors. If they can hold eight Irishmen tomorrow as well, they will be pleased.

There were few high kicks to be seen which suggests that, given a firm ground, England will give their backs an airing. With the best will in the world conditions in the Calcutta Cup game a fortnight ago did not favour a running game and it seems to me that England's championship aspirations have been too readily discounted after one indifferent showing against Scotland.

The two newcomers from Yorkshire, Barley and Underwood, blended in well, Barley's passing of the ball drawing appreciative comments, and though Wheeler, England's captain, denied that fundamental changes in approach were planned, it will be surprising if some frustrated English supporters do not see some worthwhile rugby. "England are better than they showed against Scotland two weeks ago," Wheeler said. "The championship is not yet a two-horse race. If we beat the Irish we could be on for six points and the title."

Wheeler appreciated the disappointment felt by the supporters who travelled to Murrayfield: "Both sides are going out with the same feelings. Both sides have their backs to the wall and have received a lot of criticism and we have got to put it right on Saturday."

England will have their final workout this morning and Ireland, who flew in from Dublin last night, their customary afternoon jog. The French, too sustained a late change before they left Paris for Cardiff, where they play Wales tomorrow. Rodriguez, who played flanker against Ireland last month, has a broken thumb and is replaced by Erbani, who had already been asked to join the squad after doubts about the fitness of Joinel. It will be Erbani's eleventh cap.

Joker in the pack just the man for introvert Wales

By Gerald Davies

Threequarters and half backs in Wales are encouraged to believe in the exalted place they hold in Welsh rugby's pantheon; the honest forwards, on the other hand, accept without illusion that they are the humble mushroom sons of the earth, cultivating their talents in the dark cellars of scrums, rucks and mauls.

So it had come to a pretty pass, before the game with Ireland, that a nation's desperate wishes were planed, not on the passing princes of the grand old style, those bright young things who spun and hid fun on a sixpence, but rather on a humble hooker as captain.

After leading Wales B to victory against France B, it was always on the cards that sooner or later Mike Watkins would lead the senior side. In doing so against Ireland, he became the first hooker since 1962, when Bryn Meredith, also of Newport, was captain, to lead Wales and only the third man in the history of Welsh rugby to captain the national team on his first appearance.

Watkins played for Wales B in 1976 and 1979, when he was second choice to Alan Phillips in the Cardiff club. When it was made clear to him that he would remain second choice – at a time when he could have commanded a first-team position elsewhere, and was not short of legitimate offers – the honesty of his endeavour and commitment demanded that he stay with Cardiff. He preferred to compete for a place rather than accept defeat.

The debate raged – as indeed did the competition – as to who was the better hooker. If the difference had been a matter of degree, the one would, sooner or later, have been judged better than the other. But they differed not in degree but in kind. It does over-simplify the argument to suggest that the one was, when the laws allowed prolonged mauling, a committed mauler and was known, briefly, as The Mole, whereas Phillips, with 19 tries to his credit, judged his game and contribution differently.

Watkins went with Wales to Australia and was the only player in the party not to be capped. But then for Watkins misfortune struck in 1980. He is by nature an effervescent character, full of exuberance and vitality. On one occasion his untrammelled enthusiasm proved costly.

After the last training period, two days before the game against France B in 1980, a rush of blood to the head prompted Watkins and the replacement hooker to enjoy a premature celebration in a wine bar in Cardiff. He was reprimanded; but although the disgrace of that evening may have tempered his performance, it has not dulled his wits or ebullience.

The following season he joined Newport, who were at a low ebb, and seemed destined for the wilderness. However, he has revitalized his own as well as the club's fortunes.

He is broad of shoulder and only slightly less broad at the hip, and from top to toe stands a solid, immovable square. When he runs, stooping forward, his weight is evenly distributed, and his frame is so firmly structured that it seems improbable anyone should topple him. His arms angled at the elbow, sleeves rolled up, and splaying outwards from his body, he seems custom-built for the job of ripping the ball from maul, or for any other of the hooker's unenviable but essential chores.

A constant chatterer, he bolsters his own confidence by talking to himself, or else cajoles others into greater effort. A slap on the back is a reminder that he is always there.

There is another side to his contribution. For all the talk about coaching and techniques and the merits of this player and that, a place must be found for the joker in the pack. Rugby is meant to be fun, and only the crucial 80 minutes should be taken seriously. As touring teams in particular have found, it does not do to be over-serious. Life becomes drab, and rugby in this instance has a habit of holding up a mirror to it.

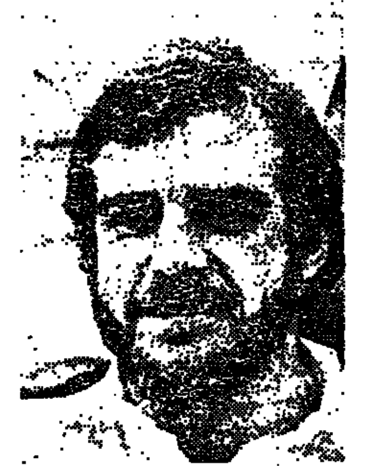
Watkins is a conscientious player and a very funny man. He has, for instance, caused chaos in a hotel foyer by imitating accurately the high pitched gargle of that non-existent instrument. These days, his party piece is to mimic the nasal Pontypool drawl of Charlie Faulkner. And, in answering a question by a French journalist, he has assumed the stilted English of an Inspector Clouseau.



Watkins: single-minded

But more dangerous of Nigel Starmer-Smith will be the interviews he conducts with Watkins for *Rugby Special*. In addressing himself to Nigel, the Harlequin man, after the Irish match Watkins, the essential Valleys man from Cwn Carn, with a strong sense of mischief, came close, "dear Nigel," to parody.

The emergence of Mike Watkins as captain and personality is exactly the tonic an increasingly introverted Welsh team needed.



Morley: indefatigable

Morley debt to his inside men

The indefatigable Alan Morley will be in London tomorrow, a mile down the road from Twickenham, hoping against Richmond to tack a few more tries onto the world record number which he established playing for Bristol against the Royal Navy on Wednesday evening.

Morley's claim as the holder of the most tries scored in first-class rugby (the figure now stands at 402) has already been established. Wednesday's record of most tries for one club passed that of 312 set by Andy Hill, the Llanelli wing, and now stands at 315. Nor has Morley any intention of retiring while he still justifies his place in Bristol's senior side.

Capped seven times by England, and now 33, Morley admitted to nerves before the game against the Navy because so many people expected *him* to pass Hill's mark. He is also the first to agree that he has played outside some very talented players at one of the handful of clubs in England and Wales who have consistently tried to play the sort of rugby which enables a wing three-quarter to score regularly.

Cowley end Reigate sequence with last-minute try

Schools rugby
by Michael Stevenson

A number of distinguished schools, famous over the years for their football, play rugby enthusiastically in the Lent term, among them **Malvern, Charterhouse** and **Shrewsbury. Malvern** lost for the first time last Saturday.

Their conquerors were **Belmont Abbey**, who won only 21-15. Perhaps the most pleasing of Malvern's six victories were against **Old Swinford Hospital School**, whom they beat 26-10, and **Wrekin A**, summarily dismissed 57-12. Malvern have been particularly well served by their excellent stand-off half and captain, Young.

Reigate Grammar are enjoying an excellent season but a formidable run of success which stretched back to November was ended by **Cowley High**. Reigate put on considerable pressure in the first half, largely through kicking, to lead 12-0 at the interval. Morgan kicked a penalty and a dropped goal and converted a try by their No 8, Foster, the result of fierce forward pressure.

Cowley, as ever dedicated to the running game, threw the ball about enterprisingly in the second half and tries by Sephton and Earner resulted, both converted by Fazackerley. The final try, to earn Cowley the draw, was scored virtually on the final whistle. Reigate are looking forward to their Easter tour of British Columbia, and Cowley have progressed to the third round of the Rugby League Open Cup, in which they meet Wigan College of Technology on February 29.

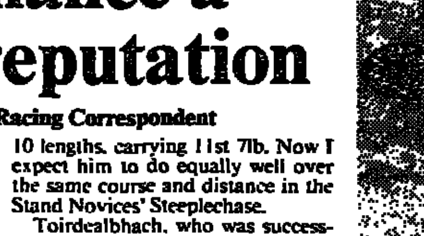
A wonderful undefeated run by **Queen Elizabeth's Hospital** (they were beaten in January, 1982) was ended by their neighbours, **Bristol Grammar**. QEH were 10-0 down at the interval, a sprited second-half rally could not quite bring victory, and they lost a thrilling match by a single point, 14-13.

There seems to be no stopping **West Park** these days. Their latest victims, **King's, Macclesfield**, came desperately close to disrupting their enviable record (played 23, won 23), losing 10-9. West Park, managing to run the ball in the mud early in the match, scored a goal and a try in the first 10 minutes. King's replied with a converted penalty try and a penalty.

Austin Friars are still unbeaten, defeating **Cockermouth Grammar** at the weekend 10-4. Stimulating back play seems to be out of fashion these days, at any rate in England, and this match was no exception.

MIDLANDS 18 GROUP (v North, at Selby, Feb 25): R Preston (King's, Worcester); I Stooksbury (King Charles I, Kidderminster); D Mitchell (Bedford); J Rutherford (Worksop); P Finney (Luton Sixth Form College); A Stride (John Taylor HS, Burton-on Trent); R Bennett (Trent); N Banbury (Arnold Hill HS, Nottingham); G Collins (Nottingham HS); R Hunt (Trent); J Murphy (de Aston, Market Rasen); M Porrisse (Ratcliffe); D Cosslett (Trent); A Collier (Arnold Hill HS); S Povoas (Robert Smyth, Leicester).

RACING: CESAREWITCH WINNER MAKES DEBUT OVER HURDLES



Lean Ar Aghaidh can enhance a growing reputation

By Michael Philips, Racing Correspondent

Bajan Sunshine, the winner of the Cesarewitch at Newmarket last October, makes his long-awaited debut under National Hunt rules in the Metropolitan Novices Hurdle at Sandown Park today. Like that other good stayer on the flat, King's College Boy, I expect Bajan Sunshine to adapt well and make an excellent start to his new career.

Bajan Sunshine was bought on the eve of the Cesarewitch by Paul Green, with jumping in mind. Mr Green did not send the five-year-old to Martin Tate, his present trainer, until he had first allowed Rod Simpson, the horse's previous trainer, a crack at the Cesarewitch, which he so craved. When Bajan Sunshine duly lived up to Simpson's prediction that he would win, Mr Green suddenly found that he had a cheap jumper on his hands. Just how good today will show.

"The sort of horse who might easily win the Gold Cup at Cheltenham one day," were the words that Eric Wheeler, Stan Mellor's experienced head lad, used when describing Lean Ar Aghaidh to me 15 months ago before the horse had run in this country. Lean Ar Aghaidh had just arrived from Ireland where, like to many good jumpers, he had spent his formative days.

Watching Lean Ar Aghaidh race over hurdles last season, a victory in the blue riband of English steeplechasing, was the last thought that I would have ever entertained, but now that he is steeplechasing and, more important, racing over distances that are more in keeping with his pedigree, he is beginning to look a much more exciting prospect.

A fortnight ago, he won a handicap for novices at Sandown by 10 lengths, carrying 11st 7lb. Now I expect him to do equally well over the same course and distance in the Stand Novices' Steeplechase.

Toirdealbhach, who was successful at the same meeting, could also make a triumphant return to the Esher course by winning the Mole Handicap Steeplechase.

At Newcastle the entire programme has been sponsored by Corbitt and Company (Coins) Ltd. Their main race, the Corbitt Penny Black Handicap Steeplechase, looks a good opportunity for Little *Frenchman* after his encouraging run behind Honourable Man and Sam Wrekin in the Grand National Trial at Catterick last Saturday.

Pebble Island, who fell at Ayr, with a race at his mercy, and Urseer, who ran so well at Catterick, when runner-up to *Earl's Brig*, are somewhat unoriginal but inescapable selections for the Corbitt Krugerrand Novices Hurdle and the Corbitt Sovereign Novices Hunters Steeplechase respectively.

Finally, there will be a good deal of emotion at Fakenham if William Wales wins the Walter Wales Memorial Cup on Swiftwood, because he will be wearing his father David's colours in a race now run annually in memory of his late and much respected grandfather. At her best, Swiftwood should be up to beating the likes of Lakin and Killer Shark.

● Fabulous Habit, the mount of John Reid, looks a sound proposition to gain his first victory in the £3,300 Prix de la Madeleine, over seven and a half furlongs, at Cagnes-sur-Mer today. Patrick Haslam's colt ran green when going under to Northern Fred a week ago, but will have benefitted from the experience.

Among his seven rivals are, Ploughman's (Willie Ryan), Bragado (Paul Tulk) and Hatal Boy (Tony McGlone) from Britain.

In the £3,300 Prix de Besancon, over 10 furlongs, *Fen Tiger* (W Ryan) is preferred to his fellow raiders To Asteri (T McGlone) and *Native Spell* (P Tulk), but a place may be his best reward. Of their eight opponents Annemarie (Francois Maerten) makes most appeal, although prominent displays by Complice (Antoine Junk) and Whitehorn (Michel Papoin) can be expected.

● Esals have re-instated Bregawn at 6-1 in their ante-post betting on the Gold Cup. Wayward Lad is their favourite at 5-2 with Borrough Hill Lad at 11-4.

● Frank Berry, five times champion jockey in Ireland, makes a special trip to Newcastle today to partner Tacroy in the Corbitt Penny Black Handicap Chase.

Berry is Tacroy's ride in the Grand National.



Martin Tate, trainer of Bajan Sunshine (3.35 Sandown)

Mellor will run three in Triumph

Nudge Nudge and Herr Capitan confirmed their places at the Cheltenham Festival next Month with wins at Taunton yesterday. Nudge Nudge joins his stable companions, Son Of A Gunner and Dodgy Future in a three-pronged attack on the Triumph Hurdle, which is Stan Mellor's lucky race. The Lambourn trainer won it with Pollardstown in 1979, and last year provided first and second with Saxon Farm and Tenth of October.

Mellor was keen on Nuge Nudge winning before Cheltenham to ensure that the horse was not eliminated from the big field overnight. The gelding did his job with ruthless efficiency, leding virtually all the way. Sammy Lux tried to throw down a challenge at the last, but the big weight difference told on the flat, and the 7-4 favourite strode five lengths clear.

Mellor said: "Nudge has been slow coming to hand, and is a gross little chap, he's had a good blow today and will keep on improving. He stays very well, and is tough and smart. He'll go for the Triumph with Dodgy Future, in whom I still have faith, and Son of A Gunner, who must be my best hope."

Herr Captain, partnered by Eddie Whettam, produced a sparkling burst of speed to cut down Mint Streak on the flat in the Cecil Hunt Memorial Trophy after the runner-up had looked all over the winner. Jim Old, saddling his 20th winner of the season, said: "Herr Captain goes for the Kim Muir at Cheltenham, which has been his objective all year."

Personality Plus gave Richard Francis, nephew of Dick Francis, the jockey and now best-selling crime novelist, his first winner since taking over training from his father, Doug, when she landed the Star and Garter Handicap Chase at Southwell yesterday.

Sandown Park

GOING: good

Tote: double 3.0, 4.5. Treble 2.30, 3.35, 4.35

2.0 STANLEY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,019: 2m 4f 68yd) (5 runners)

102 0-u3232 CLASSIFIED (G Rogers) N Henderson 8-11-13 ... P Croucher
103 4-4112f PLUNDERING (Mrs M Valentine) F Winter 7-11-12 ... N Fearn
108 00022f RUN TO ME (N Mitchell) N Mitchell 9-10-0 ... B Powell
110 00p32p ALL BRIGHT (G Roe) G Roe 12-10-0 ... T Williams
111 00f-p0u LEWIS BUILT (B) (B Coombes) M Stephens 9-10-0 ... N Coleman
1983: Mr Peapock 7-0-6 L Bloomfield (2-1 fav) T Hallett 9 ran.

11-10 Classified, 5-4 Plundering, 7 Run To Me, 16 All Bright, 20 Lewis Built.

2.30 BIRCHWOOD NOVICE HURDLE (4-y-o: £2,240: 2m) (13)

201 0213 MISTER GOLDEN (D) (N Cohen) F Winter 11-4 ... J Francome
205 00 CLINKER (A King) J Bosley 11-0 ... Mr M Bosley 7
206 2 FIGHTER PILOT (P Gray) M Pipe 11-0 ... P Leach
207 GOING BROKE (J O'Neill) D Smith 11-0 ... A Webber
210 4 LISAILY (Mrs P Meredith) N Bycroft 11-0 ... D Oldham
212 0000 MULTI GUARANTEE (P Gray) P Gray 11-0 ... A Carroll
213 NON-WET (Sheikh Mohammed) J Ciezhanowski 11-0 ... K Mooney
215 0242 PELION (Mrs A Garrett) J King 11-0 ... Steve Knight
218 23000 SOCIETY BOY (H Mould) D Nicholson 11-0 ... P Scudamore
219 0 SUPERFLUOUS (Lady C Dempster) J Old 11-0 ... S Morshead
220 0 TOUR DE FORCE (Mrs D Strauss) P Makin 11-0 ... E Waite
221 000 WATERHEAD (J Galvanoni) D Oughton 11-0 ... P Double
225 003 MOPSY LOVEJOY (F Bolam) B Stevens 10-9 ... R Muggeridge 7
1983: no race

2 Mister Golden, 4 Fighter Pilot, Pelion, 5 Clinker, 6 Lisaily, 10 Non-Wet, 16 others.

3.0 STAND NOVICE CHASE (£2,840: 3m 118yd) (7)

301 4-21011 LEAN AR AGHAIDH (C,D) (Mrs W Tulloch) S Mellor 7-11-7 ... J Francome
303 300-pp1 SIMON LEGREE (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 7-11-4 ... Peter Hobbs
305 000 ARMAGNAC WIZARD (D Nicholson) D Nicholson 8-11-0 ... N Madden
308 4f DERYCAN (Lady S FitzAlan-Howard) Lady Herries 8-11-0 ... G Newman
312 32323u MEMBRIDGE (P Dufosee) P Dufosee 9-11-0 ... H Davies
313 3/04-00 MERCILESS KING (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 7-11-0 ... P Scudamore
314 /04-300 PORTABOUGY (F Grigor) J Webber 9-11-0 ... Mr G Mernagh
1983: (Handicap) Roman Bistro 7-10-10 R Rowe (6-1) J Gifford 5 ran.

4-7 Lean Ar Aghaidh, 100-30 Simon Legree, 5 Membridge, 10 Merciless King, 16 others.

3.35 METROPOLITAN NOVICE HURDLE (£2,408: 2m) (15)

402 03021 MASTER BOATMAN (APD Insulations) P M Taylor 6-11-8 ... A Carroll
405 010 PARISH RIGGED (D) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 6-11-8 ... H Davies
415 FRED FLUSH (K Cooper) S Woodman 6-11-2 ... W Smith
416 3 HARDY JACK (G Dungate) G Thorner 6-11-2 ... R Kington
421 STAR OF SALFORD (F Landrigan) J Long 6-11-2 ... C Gray 4
422 BAJAN SUNSHINE (P Green) M Tate 5-11-0 ... P Scudamore
424 42 BOLD PRINT (B) (BF) (Mrs G Houghton) F Walwyn 5-11-0 ... K Mooney
426 BRIGADIER ROSE (Mrs P Smith) M Stephens 5-11-0 ... Steve Knight
427 CLARAGH BOY (D Nicholson) D Nicholson 5-11-0 ... N Madden
428 DANISH FLIGHT (E Thorbek) N Henderson 5-11-0 ... J Francome
431 MIANALCO (W King) W King 5-11-0 ... D Smith
432 p0 RIBU DANCER (R Morris) J Long 5-11-0 ... –
434 SIMARK (G Hubbard) J Gifford 5-11-0 ... –
436 p0p-410 SOMERSDAY (D) (J Jones) M Francis 5-10-13 ... P Barton
438 000 MEANT (Mrs J Edwards) Miss P Neal 7-10-11 ... R Hoare
1983: Noble Heir 8-11-2 K Mooney (2-1 fav) F Walwyn 14 ran.

5-2 Master Boatman, 3 Bajan Sunshine, 5 Parish Rigged, Bold Print, 7 Somersday.

4.5 MOLE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,422: 2m 18yd) (7)

502 134143 RESTLESS SHOT (R Richmond-Watson) J Webber 9-11-7 ... G McCourt
504 0-00424 SPINNING SAINT (C,D) (Miss S Wills) K Bailey 10-11-2 ... A Webber
506 f11111 FALKLAND PALACE (A Else) D Gandolfo 7-11-1 ... P Barton
507 12ff33 YOUNG DUSKY (T Ludlow) F Winter 8-11-1 ... J Francome
508 3p-22f0 JUBILEE MEDAL (B) (BF) (Mrs T Ponsonby) N Henderson 7-11-0 ... H Davies
509 1-31p24 SWEET KYBO (Lady Becher) J Gifford 10-10-13 ... P Double
511 40-2111 TOIRDEALBHACH (C,D) (H Harpur-Crewe) P O'Connor 10-10-10 ... N Madden
1983: Tower Moss 10-10-2 R Rowe (15-2) A Neaves 6 ran.

3 Falkland Palace, 4 Toirdealbhach, Young Dusky, 5 Restless Shot, 11-2 Jubilee Medal.

4.35 CARDINAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,085: 2m 5f 75yd) (17)

603 1300-00 SLEEPLESS KNAVE (M Bradstock) F Walwyn 9-11-8 ... Mr M Bradstock 7
604 0200p0 GAINSAY (C) (M Silver) D Nicholson 5-11-6 ... P Scudamore
605 031300 ROAD TO MANDALAY (Dataserv Ltd) D Barons 7-11-4 ... H Davies
606 f4-0012 MARSHELL KEY (R Gunner) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-3 ... B De Haan
608 000440 VELESO (C,B) (T Forde) J King 5-11-0 ... Steve Knight
609 3101-00 MAC'S TREASURE (Mac's Garages) J Old 7-10-13 ... –
612 200-000 DROMOLAND HILL (R Brinkworth) D Gandolfo 9-10-11 ... P Barton
615 00-4123 BOWDEN (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) I Dudgeon 6-10-8 ... R Chapman 4
616 0-00324 DEROULEDE (BF) (J Morrison) G Balding 5-10-7 ... B Reilly
621 2-40103 MOST FUN (W Sturt) J Old 6-10-3 ... –
622 3-40040 CATISFIELD FLYER (Trixydale Ltd) Mrs N Smith 5-10-0 ... C Brown
623 302000 RAISE THE OFFER (APD Insulations Ltd) P M Taylor 5-10-0 ... T Williams 7
625 0-00p01 FORTUNE COOKIE (C,D) (R Entwistle) J Fox 12-10-0 ... –
626 1220 ON THE WARPATH (Mrs E Boucher) D Oughton 5-10-0 ... P Double
629 00-0120 DRUMMOND STREET (H Rogers) A Jarvis 5-10-0 ... T Jarvis 4
632 0003-00 SAUCY DANCER (Miss B Sanders) Miss B Sanders 10-10-0 ... Miss B Sanders
633 000p00 HARRYDUF (P Dufosee) P Dufosee 8-10-0 ... J H Davies 4
1983: Kirkstone Pass 10-10-7 P Barton (9-4) D Gandolfo 5 ran.

100-30 Marshell Key, 4 Derouleda, 13-2 Fortune Cookie, 8 Most Fun, 9 On The Warpath.

Sandown selections

By Michael Phillips

2.00 *Classified*. 2.30 Mister Golden. 3.00 Lean Ar Aghaidh. 3.35 Bajan Sunshine. 4.05 Toirdealbhach. 4.35 Marshall Key.

Newcastle

GOING: good to soft

1.45 CORBITT KRUGERRAND NOVICE HURDLE (£966: 2m 120yd) (21 runners)

1 30-212f PEBBLE ISLAND (Mrs R Docchar) G Richards 5-11-8 ... A Doughty
4 4010 RUN IN TUNE (D Eddy) D Eddy 5-11-3 ... C Pimlott
5 0 ALWAYS HOPEFUL (Pacejewel Ltd) C H Bell 6-11-1 ... P Tuck
6 0/0 ANVIL INN (P Monteith) P Monteith 6-11-1 ... D Nolan
7 063020 AVON OAK (D MacDonald) D MacDonald 7-11-1 ... M Barnes
8 0330/00 BARLEY BRAKE (R Barr) R Barr 8-11-1 ... –
10 06 BEECHWOOD SEEKER (W Bulmer) K Stone 6-11-1 ... A Brown
16 222f40 HEADMERE (K Kelly) R Johnson 8-11-1 ... E McIntyre
18 0 MARSHAL OSTHOFF (P Edwicker) T Craig 5-11-1 ... M Ennis
22 4003 POLISH (J Ramsden) N Crump 6-11-1 ... C Hawkins
24 0-00 SANDIFOOT (Mrs L Fraser) J Haldane 5-11-1 ... R Lamb
26 00022/ SWAFFHAM (S Leadbetter) S Leadbetter 6-11-1 ... G Nichol 7
27 004 TAPPERS KNAPP (Mrs D Gadd) Denys Smith 7-11-1 ... C Grant
29 00 TWELTER (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 5-11-1 ... K Jones 4
31 VIVARIO (J Barratt-Atkin) G Harman 7-11-1 ... D Dutton
33 0 CAMP KELPIE (Mrs N Lofthouse) B Wilkinson 5-10-10 ... S Charlton
34 CASTLENOOK (F Storey) F Storey 7-10-10 ... B Storey 4
36 0u020- HEARTBREAK HOTEL (Miss B Oliver) Miss B Oliver 6-10-10 ... Miss B Olivier
38 ABANDONED WARRIOR (Mrs M Saville-Deane) Mrs C Postlethwaite 4-10-5 ... P A Charlton
39 EXCAVATOR BOY (P Goodwin) Mrs M Nesbitt 4-10-5 ... M Pepper 4
41 8 LYSIMACHUS (R Sangster) M W Easterby 4-10-5 ... P Tuck
1983: Emandar 4-10-1 S Youlden (2-1 fav) H Wharton 18 ran.

7-4 Pebble Island, 3 Polish, 5 Run In Tune, 10 Camp Kelpie, 14 Headmere, 16 others.

2.15 CORBITT SOVEREIGN NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (amateurs: £632: 3m) (12)

3 4003/0- GOLDEN LANE (T Dalgetty) T Dalgetty 10-12-3 ... R Shiel 7
4 0fp0/0- HANDYCUFF (A Scott) A Scott 12-12-3 ... Miss J Farr 7
5 /p0fp-u INVISIBLE MAN (E Govan) E J Govan 9-12-3 ... C Sample 7
6 3/030-4 KIKORI (R Bethell) R Bethell 9-12-3 ... W Bethell 7
7 3 MASTER MATCH (J Brockbank) J Brockbank 7-12-3 ... L Hudson 7
8 f ORCHARD KNIGHT (T Cunningham) T Cunningham 9-12-3 ... F Dalton 7
9 4b4-b PEACE CLASH (J Greenall) W A Stephenson 7-12-3 ... J Greenall 7
10 ppp-000 PELARO (Mrs E Hamilton) R Johnson 8-12-3 ... M Thompson 7
12 2pp32-2 URSER (M W Easterby) M W Easterby 10-12-3 ... R J Beggan 4
13 4/0p4p- WAITE (Miss M Forsyth) Miss M Forsyth 14-12-3 ... Miss M Forsyth 7
14 up04p- WELLHILL (W Forster) W Forster 9-12-3 ... N Jones 7
15 043uf0 WHISKEY PETE (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 9-12-3 ... P J Dun 7
1983: Willow Burn 9-12-0 D Browne (4-6 fav) R Brewis 7 ran.

4-6 Urser, 4 Kikori, 8 Handycuff, 10 Master Match, 16 Peace Clash, 20 Pelaro, 25 others.

2.45 CORBITT HALLMARK HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,825: 2m 4f) (17)

1 0/0 REGAL MOSS (I Vickers) I Vickers 9-12-5 ... Miss J Vickers 7
3 004101 PRELKO (D,B) (R Mason) J Fitzgerald 8-11-9 ... R O'Leary
5 1-44112 REPINGTON (C,D,B) (J Gilman) N Crump 6-11-7 ... C Hawkins
6 03230p BOARDMANS SPECIAL (D) (Maj J Rubin) C H Bell 10-11-1 ... P Tuck
7 u02442 CAMDEN (C,D) (R McDonald) R McDonald 10-10-12 ... K Jones 4
8 0-30404 MISS LOVE (BF) (W Love) Denys Smith 7-10-10 ... C Grant
9 421121 CHETEL (C) (R Brewis) R Brewis 10-10-8 ... C Pimlott
10 21440-1 ANOTHER CITY (D) (E Briggs) G Richards 5-10-7 ... N Doughty
11 000330 BAVAL (D) (C Slicer) D Yeoman 7-10-4 ... Mr M Thompson 7
13 0/01-00 TARQA (D) (BF) (Mrs C Postlethwaite) Mrs C Postlethwaite 6-10-0 ... P A Charlton
14 2330-03 ISLANDER (Mrs G Weir) Ld Kilmany 12-10-0 ... D Dutton
15 0212/00 BORDER KNIGHT (C) (Mrs L Fraser) J Haldane 9-10-0 ... –
16 f0-2330 JACINTO TIMES (D Ward) Mrs M Nesbitt 5-10-0 ... M Pepper 4
17 201040/ PORTMADOC (F Scotto) W A Stephenson 7-10-0 ... R Lamb
19 0-42200 CLYDE BANK (J Wilson) J S Wilson 7-10-0 ... A Stringer
21 140010 WATCHKNOWE LAD (D) (W Young) W Young 6-10-0 ... B Storey 4
22 430-040 MARACAS BAY (B) (Mrs J Waggott) N Waggott 5-10-0 ... A Farrell 7
1983: Grinders 5-10-5 D Dutton (9-2 jt fav) E Carter 13 ran.

7-2 Chetel, 4 Prelko, 11-2 Camden, 7 Tarqa, 8 Repington, 10 Miss Love, Another City.

3.15 CORBITT PENNY BLACK HANDICAP CHASE (£2,670: 3m) (10)

2 ffp030 TACROY (A Duffield) P O'Connor 10-11-7 ... F Berry
3 1f4121 IMPERIAL BLACK (D) (T Webster) N Crump 8-11-7 ... C Hawkins
4 123211 BEAMWAM (C) (I Clements) C H Bell 6-11-7 (7 ex) ... P Tuck
6 400-111 DON'T WAIT (J Valks) W A Stephenson 8-10-11 (4 ex) ... R Lamb
7 231-113 LITTLE FRENCHMAN (D) (E Robson) E H Robson 11-10-10 ... C Pimlott
8 312222 KUDOS (C,D) (J Blundell) J Blundell 9-10-9 ... D Dutton
15 p1p3u4 TWIFLIGHT (D) (G Leadbitter) B Wilkinson 9-10-0 ... N Doughty
17 00pp00- SOLO SAM (D) (Mrs R Brewis) R Brewis 12-10-0 ... –
20 f00-404 HARDY LAD (D) (Mrs J Milligan) B Wilkinson 7-10-0 ... R O'Leary
22 4-00230 CAPTAIN PARKHILL (D) (B McLean) B McLean 11-10-0 ... P A Charlton
1983: Another Captain 11-10-11 G Bradley (15-1) A Scott 5 ran.

15-8 Don't Wait, 3 Beamwam, 9-2 Little Frenchman, 6 Imperial Black, 8 Tacroy, 10 Kudos.

3.45 CORBITT GOLD MEDAL HURDLE (4-y-o: £2,050: 2m 120yd) (9)

2 2121 ALBERTAT (C,D) (J Spedding) Denys Smith 11-0 ... C Grant
3 0011 CUT'N DRY (C,D) (Miss M Roulston) R Johnson 11-0 ... S McNeill
4 DENVER (K McDonald) I Vickers 11-0 ... –
6 130 EXCAVATOR EXPERT (D Ward) Mrs M Nesbitt 11-0 ... M Pepper 4
8 000 HARBOUR MUSIC (B) (G Dand) T Craig 11-0 ... M Ennis
10 0 REGAL EXPRESS (Nucrete Concrete Ltd) H Wharton 11-0 ... S Youlden 7
11 04 SAXON FORT (G Childs) M Naughton 11-0 ... M Dwyer
12 310014 TOPLEIGH (Mrs M Monteith) P Monteith 11-0 ... D Nolan
13 03211 SWEET COLLEEN (G Graham) M W Easterby 10-9 ... A Dickman
1983: Saxon Farm 11-6 M Perrett (5-4 fav) S Mellor 6 ran.

9-4 Sweet Colleen, 3 Albertat, 7-2 Topleigh, 13-2 Excavator Expert, 9 Cut'n Dry, 12 Denver.

4.15 CORBITT DIAMOND NOVICE HURDLE (4-y-o: £660: 2m 4f) (8)

1 423011 SOLARES (J Berry) J Berry 11-7 ... M Berry 7
4 p0 BORDER TINKER (D MacDonald) D W MacDonald 11-0 ... B Storey 4
5 42 CARNIVAL PRIZE (N Heslop) R Gray 11-0 ... S Charlton
7 0 FEALTY (P Brookshaw) P Brookshaw 11-0 ... G Bradley
10 0p0 OUR PRETENDER (Mrs S Lee) R Woodhouse 11-0 ... C Hawkins
12 303 THE MAN HIMSELF (E Briggs) G Richards 11-0 ... N Doughty
13 42u000 TOT (T Gledson) Denys Smith 11-0 ... C Grant
14 00 LOCH LOUISE (Mrs E Rhind) M W Easterby 10-9 ... P Tuck
1983: Mossmorran 11-3 C Bell (4-1) A Scott 13 ran.

5-4 Solares, 9-4 Fealty, 9-2 The Man Himself, 10 Tot, 16 Carnival Prize, 20 others.

Newcastle selections

By Michael Phillips

1.45 Pebble Island. 2.15 Urser. 2.45 Prelko. 3.15 Little Frenchman. 3.45 Albertat. 4.15 Solares.

Fakenham

GOING: good

2.15 SHERINGHAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£705: 2m 80yd) (13 runners)

2 24-10 LUCKY SCENE K Wingrove 6-11-11 ... Miss S James 7
3 01/0-p FUGACIOUS M Hinchliffe 6-11-11 ... M Richards 4
4 2220 TOP GOLD H O'Neill 5-11-7 ... M Hammond 4
5 00 THE ENID C Mackenzie 4-11-4 ... M Bastard
6 030p CHAD'S DELIGHT R Juckes 4-11-2 ... S J O'Neill
7 000f OLD STAGER D Grissell 6-11-2 ... R Goldstein
9 0200 SUNSPEED J Kettlewell 6-10-13 ... S Kettlewell 4
12 4-000 MAJORIAN J Harris 6-10-11 ... A Harris
13 0010 LEGAL BEAU P Allingham 5-10-10 ... M Perrett
15 p023 PERDICCAS G Morgan 6-10-6 ... P Dever 4
16 00-00 BOTTISHAM H O'Neill 6-10-5 ... M Carberry 7
17 0000 PALACE OF LOVE H Fleming 4-10-3 ... –
19 04fp PALM THE ACE (B) R Hoad 6-10-2 ... M Hoad 7
1983: abandoned – frost

5-2 Top Gold, 100-30 Legal Beau, 4 Perdiccas, 8 The Enid, 10 Sunspeed, Marjorian, 16 Chad's Delight, 20 others.

2.45 SANDRINGHAM HANDICAP CHASE (£1,317: 3m) (7)

2 104p ANTIC (D) N Henderson 9-11-7 ... Mr J White
3 4421 WILLIAMSON (D) E Witts 10-11-8 (6ex) ... C Mann 4
4 12pp BALLYGORE D Thom 8-11-0 ... M Bastard
7 p320 BANKSIDE (CD) C Wates 12-10-7 ... S Shilston
8 0022 NINTH ADDITION (B) (BF) P Felgate 9-10-0 ... P Dever 4
9 3310 DR PEPPER (C,BF) P Haynes 7-10-0 ... J Lovejoy 4
10 00-21 FLAMTEX LAD R Hoad 7-10-0 ... M Perrett

15-8 Williamson, 7-2 Ballygore, 5 Antic, 7 Dr Pepper, 8 Ninth Addition, 14 Bankside, 20 Flamtex Lad.

3.15 TOTE NOVICE CHASE (£1,248: 2m) (13)

1 1403 STUCK FOR WORDS A Moore 7-12-0 ... M Akehurst 4
2 0130 ADEQUATE N Henderson 7-11-9 ... Mr J White
3 2121/ BRAVE GEORGE M W Dickinson 7-11-9 ... G Bradley
4 0003 CHARLIE MUDDLE S Mellor 9-11-9 ... M Perrett
5 10p/1 EL CUBANO M Hinchliffe 6-11-9 ... NON-RUNNER
6 0-000 FLIGHT SHEET P Felgate 8-11-9 ... P Dever 4
9 04-00 JOSMOLL C Mackenzie 7-11-9 ... M Bastard
10 ff40 LANDAS SLAVE (B) H O'Neill 8-11-9 ... M Hammond 4
11 00f/0- LAST RAINBOW C Drew 8-11-9 ... J Barlow
12 0p-02p PIERHEAD Mrs P Sly 6-11-9 ... S Johnson
14 2022 SILENT ECHO A Blackmore 9-11-9 ... Mr R Dunwoody 7
17 2001 EMILY ETHEL R Hoad 6-11-4 ... S J O'Neill
18 p-lpl LE MARSH J Scallan 7-11-4 ... J McLaughlin 4

7-4 Charlie Muddle, 5-2 Brave George, 5 Stuck For Words, 8 Silent Echo, 10 Adequate, 14 Landas Slave, 20 others.

3.45 HAIG WHISKY NOVICE HURDLE QUALIFIER (£827: 2m 80yd) (10)

1 4100 MR SPRIG (B) E Witts 7-11-10 ... C Mann 4
3 3430 ASHLONE S Mellor 5-11-0 ... M Perrett
5 00 BLENDING B Wise 5-11-0 ... R Rowell
6 00-00 BOLD PAGAN A Moore 5-11-0 ... G Moore
7 3304- MAGIC ABROAD C Mackenzie 5-11-0 ... M Bastard
8 0p MANDY'S SEAL J Harris 6-11-0 ... J A Harris
9 0-404 MILITARY CROWN P Allingham 7-11-0 ... M Hammond 4
11 0-00 SATANTILLER (B) W Wharton 5-11-0 ... S J O'Neill
12 f4p ORMSKIRK MOVER (B) J Scallan 5-10-9 ... J McLaughlin 4
13 p- ROYAL FEATURE Mrs E Andrews 6-10-0 ... Mr S Andrews 7

11-8 Ashlone, 11-4 Mr Sprig, 7-2 Bold Pagan, 10 Ormskirk Mover, 14 Magic Abroad, 20 Military Crown, 25 others.

4.15 WALTER WALES MEMORIAL CUP HUNTER CHASE (amateurs: £1,101: 2m 5f 110yd) (7)

3 121u- SWIFT WOOD (C) D Wales 10-12-1 ... W Wales 7
5 4p3/ GABERDAY M Barlow 9-11-10 ... T Illsley 7
7 f/402- KILLER SHARK G Pritchard-Gordon 9-11-10 ... D Sherwood
8 20f-2 LAKIN (C) Mrs A Villar 7-11-10 ... S Sherwood
10 0/220- SALDATORE (B) J Turner 7-11-10 ... D Turner 4
11 p- SPARTIQUICK J Castle 7-11-5 ... R Mann
12 0000/ SUSAN'S MISTAKE Mrs E Barber 8-11-5 ... W Barber 7

4-5 Lakin, 5-2 Swift Wood, 10 Kille Shark, 20 Saldatore, 33 Gaberday, 50 Spartiquick, Susan's Mistake.

4.45 CROMER HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,059: 2m 80yd) (14)

1 00fp HATTAN (C) P Mitchell 6-11-10 ... M Scarfe 7
2 02b0 MORVERN (B) J Jenkins 5-11-9 ... S Smith Eccles
3 00-01 TUTHILL BOND P Allingham 7-11-6 ... –
4 0230- DANISH KING A Moore 10-11-4 ... G Moore
6 4134- SUPER TEK B Wise 8-11-1 ... R Rowell
8 0000 HOME COMMAND C N Williams 4-10-13 ... M O'Halloran
9 1f-04 WESTWAY LAD (C) M Hinchliffe 5-10-12 ... M Richards 4
12 3200 GOLDORATION (C) H O'Neill 9-10-4 ... M Hammond 4
14 31/p0 RIVAL C Drew 6-10-2 ... J Barlow
15 200 NOBLE PHILIP W Guest 7-10-0 ... M Bowlby 7
16 4f04 BALLIMA D Grissell 6-10-0 ... R Goldstein
17 0000 DOLLYMIXTURE BOY R Armstrong 6-10-0 ... M Wilson 7
18 4000 QUALITAIR PRINCE M Ryan 5-10-0 ... J McLaughlin 4
19 2f0f MARJORAM H Fleming 5-10-0 ... –

5-2 Westway Lad, 7-2 Tuthill Bond, 5 Morvern, 8 Goldoration.

Fakenham selections

By Michael Phillips

2.15 Top Gold. 2.45 Williamson. 3.15 Brave George. 3.45 Ashlone. 4.15 Swift Wood. 4.45 Morvern.

Taunton results

Going: Good to soft.

1.45 STAPLE FITZPAINE HURDLE (Div I: novices: £588: 2m).

NUDGE NUDGE br g, by Windjammer – Venezian (A. Birchall) 4-10-8 ... M Perrett (7-4 fav) 1
Sammy Lux ... Mr P Schofield (10-1) 2
Ruths Magic ... Colin Price (10-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.50. Places: £1.20, £2.80, £2.20. DF: £6.90. CSF: £17.10. S Mellor at Lambourn. 5l, nk. Marina Star (7-2) 4th. 18 ran.

2.15 FEBRUARY HURDLE (4-y-o: novice: selling: £450: 2m)

RAINBOW SPRINGS b f, by Silly Season – Hod On (D Tucker) 10-1 ... R Millman (7-1) 1
Kitty Wren ... George Knight (16-1) 2
Sheer Madness ... J Suthern (15-2) 3

TOTE: Win: £8.80. Places: £2.20, £4.90, £1.70. DF: £42.50. CSF: £102.13. D Tucker at Cullompton. 4l, 4. Asnab (15-8 fav) 4th. 12 ran. bought in 1,000gns.

2.45) CECIL HUNT CHASE (handicap: £2,257: 3m 5f).

HERR CAPITAN ch g, by Lombard – Ista Jill (A Whettam) 8-11-5 ... Mr E Whettam (8-1) 1
Mint Streak ... N Madden (13-2) 2
Drops O'Brandy ... P Warner (6-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £10.00. Places: £2.70, £2.10, £2.50. DF: £17.30. CSF: £51.02. Tricast: £384.39. J Old at Bristol. 1l, 1l. Wild Gamble (8-1) 4th. Canford Ginger (5-1 fav). 14 ran. NR: Pucka Fella.

3.15 BURNHAM-ON-SEA HURDLE HANDICAP: (£1,308: 2m 3f

CORRIB LAD b g by L'Homme Arme – Phedre (W White) 9-10-2 ... P Richards (8-1) 1
Dalbury ... P Corrigan (7-4 fav) 2
Velvet Boy ... S Moreshead (33-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £9.70. Places: £2.50, £1.70, £8.20, £1.70. DF: £9.20. CSF: £22.03. Tricast £435.98. R Hodges at Lonport ½l. 7l. Gathabawn (12-1) 4th 12 ran.

3.45 GLASTONBURY CHASE HANDICAP: (£1,377: 2m

STRAIGHT CASH b g by Meniek-Better Deal – (Lady More) 11-10-10 ... S Morashead (7-2 fav) 1
Kings Singer ... P Hobbs (16-1) 2
Fire Drill ... P Richards (7-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.60. Places: £1.60, £2.80, £1.60, £3.70. DF: £47.70. CSF: £53.45. Tricast: £341.16. Mrs W Sykes at Bishops Castle. 8l, 3l 4l. Autoway (33-1) 4th. Quasar Light (5-2 fav) 17 ran.

4.15 STAPLE FITZPAINE HURDLE (Div II novices: £560: 2m)

ADMIRAL'S RULER ch g by – Lancashire Lass (W Ponsonby) 4-11-4 ... K Mooney (4-5 fav) 1
Cape Mandy ... P Richards (100-30) 2
Chevanter ... P Barton (10-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.60. Places: £1.00, £1.90, £2.20. DF: £2.40. CSF: £3.16. F Walwyn at Lambourn, 3l, 2l. Tarquin Queen (150-1) 4th. 16 ran. NR McGee. PLACEPOT: £17.00

Southwell

Going: Soft

1.30 REINDEER HUNTER CHASE Div I (novices: amateurs: £828: 3m 110yd)

ANSURO b m by Ascertain – Argostone (Miss R Scholey) 7-11-5 ... R J Beggan (11-8 fav) 1
Another Simon ... T Garton (3-1) 2
Hamshaw ... B Crawford (8-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.60. Places: £1.10, £1.10, £2.90. DF: £2.00. CSF: £6.21. Miss R Scholey at Skelbrooke. 20l, 10l. Go Deo Deo (12-1) 4th. 9 ran. NR: Brother Jack, Remina.

2.0 BROMLEY ARMS CHASE (handicap: £1,063: 2m 74yd)

SEA SPLASH br g by Menelek – Zeta's Daughter (Mrs M Brennan) 8-10-7 ... M Brennan (6-1) 1
Lloyd Ardua ... C Mann (25-1) 2
Skeheena ... Mr D Williams (6-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £7.50. Places: £2.70, £14.70, £3.20. DF: £12.70. CSF: £130.16. Tricast: £2868.41. O Brennan at Newark. 8l, 2l. Forest Lodge (8-1) 4th. 12 ran.

2.30 CROWN HURDLE (selling: £882: 2m)

JUKEBOX KATIE ch m by Jukebox – Castaway Kate (R Hanson) 5-10-10 ... J J O'Neill (7-2) 1
Smiling Laurel ... J Williams (6-1) 2
High Barn ... P Blackburn (10-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £4.10. Places: £1.20, £1.70, £2.40. DF: £19.50. CSF: £26.96. W Clay at Uttoxeter. 1½l, 1½l. Greenacres Joy (11-8 fav) 4th. 10 ran. NR: Probalist. Sold R Whelan 1,700gns.

3.0 STAR AND GARTER CHASE (Handicap: £1,415: 3m 110yd)

PERSONALITY PLUS b m by Master Owen – No Rain (D Pickering) 8-10-5 ... R Crank (9-1) 1
Santa Noel ... M Dwyer (20-1) 2
Moor Close ... J J O'Neill (3-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £8.80. Places: £1.70, £5.50, £1.80. DF: £156.40. CSF: £155.67. Tricast: £812.04. W Francis at Malpas. 6l, 10l. Artmarvel (4-1) 4th. Vendevar (11-4 fav). 13 ran. NR: Greenbank Park.

3.30 TOTE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,700: 2m)

HARFORD br g by Goldhill – Sage Willow (Monmore Auto Spares Ltd) 7-10-3 ... R Crank (2-1 fav) 1
Kelsey Lady ... D Oldham (5-1) 2
American Girl ... M Hammond (16-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.30. Places: £1.10, £1.90, £3.60, £3.40. DF: £9.30. CSF: £14.86. Tricast: £133.74. B McMahon at Tamworth. 6l, nk. Mark Edelson (20-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR: Fit For A King. Goldoration.

4.0 REINDEER HUNTER CHASE (Div II: novices: amateurs: £621: 3m 110yd)

HASTY RETREAT ch m by Country Retreat – Beguiled Again (B Rice) 8-11-2 ... Mrs G Rice (10-1) 1
French Lieutenant ... R Mann (7-4 fav) 2
Jimmy Lad ... J Sharp (3-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £7.60. Places: £1.30, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £16.00. CSF: £26.67. B Rice at Chapel Brampton. 3l, 4l. Double Earning (11-2) 4th. 10 ran.

4.30 ELM TREE HURDLE (mares: novices: £548: 2m 4f)

LADY TUT b f by Fine Blade – Tutty (T Bill) 4-10-8 ... Mr G Williams (7-1) 1
Crammond Eng ... P Tuck (11-4) 2
Ballydoran Lass ... N Doughty (11-4) 3

TOTE: Win: £7.20. Places: £1.70, £2.20, £2.70. DF: £7.00. CSF: £29.63. T Bill at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Repagain (6-4 fav) 4th. 15 ran.

PLACEPOT: £465.95.

CRICKET

England will seek to make amends in first of one-day internationals

From Derek Hodgson, Christchurch

Permit me to quote regulations 11, 12, and 13 from the playing conditions of the Rothmans one-day international series between New Zealand and England that starts at Lancaster Park tomorrow. "Only one white ball will be used. The sight screens shall be black. In all matches the team will wear approved coloured clothing".

There may appear to be nothing new or sinister in such rules and, indeed, such deviations from the accepted traditions of the game are now the popular part of Australasian cricket. The danger lies in their acceptance.

The only reason advanced for these colour changes when World Series began was the necessity for sharp contrasts when playing cricket under floodlights. This next series starts at 11am each day and no New Zealand ground has floodlights.

Another example: the New Zealand board will appoint a referee for each match who will adjudicate on disputes over rules, "assist" the umpires in calculating revised numbers of overs to be bowled, be responsible for any suspensions of play caused by bad light and review any penalties imposed for not achieving over rates. "The referee's decision ... shall be final and be accepted by both captains and umpires". The umpires are virtually reduced to counting the number of balls in an over and deciding whether and how a batsman is out.

The question is how far England are prepared to go down the road. What is being played in Australia now, and increasingly in New Zealand, is becoming further and further removed from the sweet meadow game we all once played.

Views differ on N Zealand strip

Christchurch, New Zealand (Reuter) – Local cricketers who have played on the controversial Lancaster Park pitch since England's innings defeat on it earlier this month said yesterday it was cracked and pitted.

Tomorrow it will be in use again when England meet New Zealand in the first of three one-day internationals. One local cricketer said: "If England bat first and they have still got this hang-up about bad wickets it could all be over by 3 pm."

His colleagues claimed the pitch is in the same condition as when England crashed to defeat by an inning and 132 runs. But Albie Duckmanton, chairman of the Canterbury Cricket Association, said: "It appears at this stage to be a very good strip."

In a mad and dizzy pursuit of mass TV audiences and the profits to be skimmed from advertisers, sponsors and huge gate receipts, cricket is being forced into changes so fast it will soon become unrecognizable.

If coloured shirts, why not names and numbers, too? Away with these unintelligible references to silly mid on and third man. Superimpose a clock-face on the screen: square leg becomes three o' clock, and so on. Grass is unreliable and liable to change unexpectedly, so play on Astroturf where the bounce will be gentle and uniform.

Artificial surfaces might also eliminate those dangerous subversives, the spinners. Fading light? Can't have that. Batsmen must be able to see properly, so play all games under artificial lights.

Umpires are a little Victorian, too. If the referee is in charge, why not appoint umpires who could tell a quick joke to camera in that dreary gap between overs? Either that or ensure that there is enough time between overs to give an advertiser a decent burst.

Scoreboards are a nuisance. Who can work out all those numbers? They have a great idea in boxing: a pretty young thing in high heels and a bikini trots round the ring between rounds and holding up a placard with the number of the round to come. That could apply to the next over, too.

Those commentators can be a bore. You can sell Benaud and Laker to a Miss World audience. Something light and cheerful is needed: you know, the Breakfast TV approach. If people get depressed they start thinking. No, not Roland Rat. Perhaps a disc jockey, with the presenter from a quiz show.

That is the kind of packaged cricketthat no self-respecting commercial TV company could resist, and if they could devise some method of pushing it down-market they might even sell it to the Americans.

All this may read like a fantasy, a passage from George Orwell, in Bath or Bradford. In Australia and New Zealand it could be happening next year because cricket is no longer controlled by people who love it as a game.

England train at Lancaster Park this morning and will be keen to see what has happened to the square since the notorious pitch prepared for the second Test match. The other two matches follow in Wellington next Wednesday and Auckland the following Saturday.

Grist to the mill

Yorkshire turned a loss of £11,000 in 1982 into a profit of £48,000 last season, when they won the John Player League.

It would have been much greater but for the cost of the special general meeting last month which passed votes of no confidence in the cricket and general committees and called for the reinstatment of Geoffrey Boycott. This is estimated in the annual report released yesterday to have cost £27,925.

Yorkshire's income was £551,777, a rise of nearly £100,000 on the previous year with subscriptions totalling £185,924, the Test and County Cricket Board cash amounting to £195,983 and gate money rising by £17,000 to £59,718.

The bulk of the gate receipts came from the eight home Sunday League matches which brought in £33,152, compared with £19,032 in 1982. Championship attendances were also up by over £5,000 to £25,474 and sponsorship reached a record figure of £47,330.

The club is to spend £33,500 on Headingley to bring the seating capacity to more than 20,000 by the start of the season.

Boycott replied yesterday to the critics who think he should not stand for election to the Yorkshire committee. The former cricket chairman, Ronnie Burnet, said on Wednesday that Boycott would be a "spy in the camp" if he continued to play and sit on the committee and added: "Nothing is more calculated to destroy team spirit and undermine captain David Bairstow's position."

Mendis to lead

Colombo, (Reuter) – Duleep Mendis, aged 31, has been appointed Sri Lanka's captain for three Test matches and three one-day internationals against New Zealand next month. He will also lead Sri Lanka in the first Asia Cup cricket tournament at Sharjah in April.

Decider coin is tossed out

The toss of a coin will no longer settle the fate of a county in the knock-out stages of the Benson and Hedges cup competition. The Test and County Cricket Board have decided that if no result is achieved after three days, the winner will be determined by the wicket-taking rate in the previous zonal matches.

Last sumer, in the quarter-final at Bristol, Gloucestershire lost a vital toss and Middlesex went through, going on to win the final against Essex at Lord's.

Prize money for this summer's competition has agin been increased, up £9,000 on last year's figure to £64,200. The winners will get £1,000 more at £14,000 and other prizes are: runners-up £7,000, losing semi-finalists £3,750 each: losing quarter-finalists £2,000 each: winners of zonal matches £550 each.

Tooby girls identical in every way but current fitness

Susan Tooby (left) and Angela neck and neck (Photograph: Tony Marshall)

Dead heat for twins who came in from the cold

Angela Tooby has not quite made up her mind how good she is. The English cross-country championship at Knebworth Park, Hertfordshire, tomorrow should go a long way towards convincing her, for she is a likely winner. And if her twin, Susan, had not been injured earlier this season, the organizers might have needed a photo-finish to separate them. Few people would be any the wiser.

They prefer to spare us the problem by not running the same race when they can avoid it, since it is a problem for them, too. "It's difficult mentally having her there," Angela says. "It's like your inner self running by your side. You're not only thinking of yourself, you're thinking of that other part of you. It's an added pressure. If the best runner in Britain were beside us, it wouldn't matter. I would just be thinking of Susan."

Angela claims that she does not believe in notions of telepathy between identical twins, putting it down to "the same genes and conditioning". But when their new coach Ann Hill put her on a crash diet last year, and she lost a stone in two weeks, her sister also lost weight, without the diet. Susan admits that if Angela gave up running, she would too. Angela puts it another way: "As long as one of us is running, the other will have to continue."

There has never been more than a few seconds separating them since they were children, and their father sent them running around the family orchard at Woolhope, Herefordshire, when they complained of the cold. Only a week separated their respective breakthroughs into the rank of women's distance running last autumn. When Angela won the English 10 miles road championship, at Hendon on October 2, the question uppermost in our minds was "Who?" For she had never won any road race, let alone a national title.

The surprise was compounded when Susan won the Welsh 10 miles title in 55 mins 56 seconds, only 25 seconds slower than Angela's time. "She had to do it, because I'd done it," Angela says. "rivalry, but not jealousy," she emphasized. Then interdependence is awesome, but rewarding, like the six-day cycle racers who alternate the lead by catching each other's arm, to catapult their partner forward. From school in Hereford, they did the same university course in Aberyswyth, played the same basketball and country hockey teams, and of course, ran together.

After three years in Aberystwyth, they have run for Wales, which is their intension. But they have been seperated for the last couple of years. Angela stayed on in Wales to do her teacher-training, but Susan went to Loughborough, "and started training seriously", Angela says with the glint of rivalry back in her eye. That pushed Angela into finding a proper coach for the first time in her career, a move that Susan later followed. Angela now teaches geography and PE in Cambridge, while Susan teaches the same subjects in Bristol.

They are in no doubt that Ann Hill's direction has made them into international material. After those national ten-mile victories, Angela followed up with the fastest time in the national road relay, with Susan second, and their Cardiff club easy winners of the title. But then Susan got the dreaded "shin splints", which signals an imminent stress fracture, and she eased off training for a month over Christmas.

But Angela carried all before her. She won the Paris to Versailles 17 kilometres race, and then literally decimated the record in the Morpeth to Newcastle New Year race. She took 4½ minutes off the 13 miles course record in a fierce crosswind that "threatened to blow me into a ditch". But being a little female was an advantage. I got in amongst the blokes," she says coyly. "And then swore at them for slowing down."

Susan made a good comeback two weeks ago when she finished fourth in the European Club Cross Country Championships in Italy that Angela won. And Susan should still make good her forecast of the top ten in tomorrow's race.

Benning a doubtful starter

The defending champion, Christine Benning of Southampton is a doubtful starter for the tomorrow's race, which is sponsored by Provincial Insurance.

Mrs Benning, in outstanding form when she won the Southern title recently, has a cold and is unlikely to run.

The favourite now is likely to be Jane Furniss, aged 23, of Sheffield, who won the Inter-Counties title convincingly. The absence of Mrs Benning could cause a problem for England's selectors, who will choose the team for the World Championships in New York on March 25.

But it is hard to draw Angela out of the same modest ambition.

She still clings to the relative obscurity of Woolhope, Aberystwyth and Cambridge. Susan, who got to know the personalities in her sport during her year in Loughborough, cannot believe how her sister does not know her principal opponents, but says she can understand Angela's trepidation about being one of tomorrow's favourites, after finishing thirty-third in last year's race in which Susan was thirty-first.

But Angela prefers to think "my advantage is not knowing the people I'm running against, to go into a race oblivious of who such-and-such is.

Somebody offered to take her to see tomorrow's course, since it is barely 30 minutes drive from Cambridge. But she refused. "I just want to turn up and run." Asked if she wanted to modify her own top ten projection, she conceded "top five" then in the same sentence admitted to "first three". Angela Tooby had better enjoy today. It will probably be her last without pressure.

Pat Butcher

BOXING

Bruno faces Argentine champion

Terry Lawless, the manager of Frank Bruno, has appealed to Briatin's boxing public to give the Argentine heavyweight champion Jan Antonio Figueroa, a warm welcome when he meets the unbeaten Londoner at Wembley Arena on March 13.

Lawless, speaking from Tampa, Florida, said: "I hope we can be big enough to forget the trouble between the two countries. I suppose it is inevitable that there will be some booing but I'd like to ask the fans to give Figueroa a great reception. We're all sportsmen, after all.

Certainly Lawless will not want to see any repetition of the disgraceful Wembley scenes of September 1980, when Marvin Hagler took the world middleweight title from Allan Minter and was bombarded with beer cans.

Bruno, chasing his twentyfirst straight win, takes on a man who stands two inches taller at 6ft 5in but weighs half a stone less at 15½ stones. Figueroa has won 20 of 26 bouts, lost five and is the first Argentine to box in Britain since Santos Laciar met Charlie Magri in December 1980.

"I've been having a bit of a fight with Frank about his weight." Lawless said. "He keeps telling me how big his neck and shoulders are getting but he doesn't seem to realise his weight increases at the same time. He thinks there's a problem, but there isn't."

Bruno, aged 22, has been working hard in the Florida sunshine. "He's had 70 rounds of sparring already, 50 of them with the Commonwealth champion, Trevor Berbick, and its been invaluable experience." Lawless entrusted. "Frank's become very mature and very worldly with all the trips abroad. He is also suffering from impatience, but although he is not ranked in the top 15 by either the WBC or WBA, *The Ring Magazine* rates him tenth and they are tougher in their judgment.

"I don't even want him in the top 10 right now. It would make my job almost impossible, what with all the fuss, and it's coming along perfectly at the moment. Figueroa is just the right sort of opponent for us."

Lawlress plans perhaps another 20 rounds to complete a month's working holiday – "if we can get the right sort of sparring". Berbick will be on the same Wembley bill, taking on Mark "White lightning" Lee.

Also in the British contingent in Florida with Lawless is West Ham's British middleweight champion, Mark Kaylor.

Also in the party is Britain's other great trainer, George Francis, who has with him Cornelius Boza-Edwards, John Mugabi, who boxes on Sunday, and Bristol's Nick Wilshire, who next Wednesday tackles Orpington's Jimmy Cable for the British light-middleweight title at the Albert Hall.

GOLF

Graham's lead slips as he suffers rough luck

Melbourne (Reuter) – David Graham, of Australia, forfeited the outright lead in the first round of the £97,000 Australian Masters tournament at Huntingdale yesterday when he had a six at the par-four 18th hole.

Graham was in trouble in the rough with one of his approach shots and the lapse left him sharing first place on 69, four under the card, with fellow-countrymen Mike Ferguson and Terry Gale.

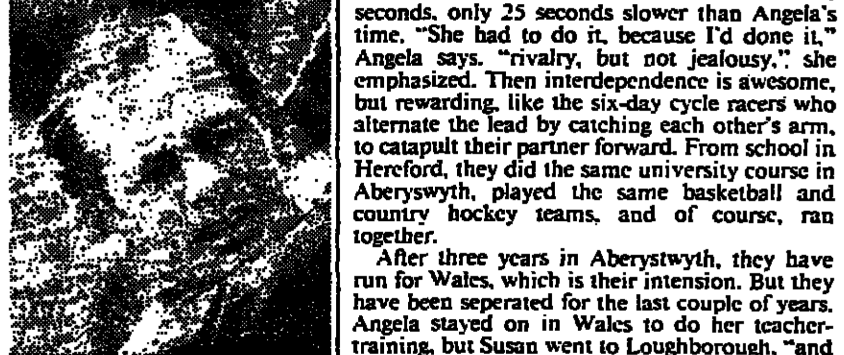
Ferguson, who played early in the day, was in the clubhouse for three hours before Graham and Gale joined him.

It was an unhappy day for the overseas players. Nick Faldo, in trouble at the 18th, had a level-par 73 to finish one ahead of the American, Calvin Peete, and Bernhard Langer of West Germany.

Langer was upset by the slow play. "I've been out there too long," he told tournament director David Inglis.

Faldo was playing in the same group as Graham Marsh, the Australian he beat in last year's world match-play event at Wentworth after a controversial incident when a spectator returned a wayward approach to the green.

But there was no such help for Faldo yesterday. His approach to the 18th green went wide to the right, passed through the branches of a tree and rolled under scaffolding supporting the main scoreboard.



Graham: Trouble at the last

Faldo crawled in and retrieved it, then took a drop from a designated spot nearby, completing the hole in a bogey five.

FIRST ROUND: (leaders, Australian unless stated): 69: M Ferguson; D Graham; T Gale. 70: M Clayton; R Davis. 71: V Somers. 72: J Lister (NZ); P McWhinney; B Shearer; W Riley; B Devlin; M Harwood. 73: M Cahill; B Shaw; N Faldo (GB). 74: C Peete (US); G Norman; O Moore; R Stephens; G Marsh; A Yabe (Japan); B Langer (WG). 75: G Parslow; N Ratcliffe; B Charles (NZ); S Anderson-Chapman (Can); P Fowler; W Smith.

MANILLA: Philippine Open: Second round leaders (Philippines unless stated): 138: R Lavares 70, 68. 140: P Braza 68, 72. 143: M Siodina 69, 74. 144: D Nadales 76, 68. 145: J Rates 73, 72. 147: E Bagtas 74, 73; B Mogg (US) 77, 70. 148: T Abordorada 73, 75. G Ababa 74, 74. 149: T Sieckman (US) 74, 75; J Lewis (US) 75, 74.

HOCKEY

North could win again

By Joyce Whitehead

The national junior territorial tournament starts today at Queen Mary's School, Lytham St Annes, and the programme will continue until 11.30 on Sunday morning. The presentation of the trophy will be followed by the announcement of the squads for the England junior team trials.

The tournament will be a severe test of endurance. Each side will have played four matches in three days (only the North do not play on Sunday morning) and then those selected for the final trial will play again at noon on Sunday – a far cry from the earlier limit of one match a day.

For the last three years the North have held pride of place, with three successive wins, though last year they took precedence over the South on goal difference. They appear again to have a strong side with the captain, Holly Rowe, Andrea Fleming and Julie Pearson playing on home ground.

The West, with Heather Tilsley (Cornwall) as captain, learnt much from an early match on February 4 with British Colleges, to whom they lost 0-2. Tracey Wilce, daughter of a fine former England player, Eileen Wilce, captains the East side which looks strong on paper.

Midlands have been practising hard, under the leadership of Sarah Jane Harding. The South have a good mixture of experience and the up-and-coming. Given reasonable weather, the tournament should be full of interest.

Tomorrow, at the College of St Paul and St Mary, The Park, Cheltenham, the first and second teams of British Colleges Sports Association and British Polytechnic Sports Association, will play each other, starting at 2 pm.

EAST: B Bend, M Allen, C Gurney, D Seradi, K Hulley, A Berg, A Burger, H Freeman, S Frost, T Wilce (capt), S Chandler

WEST: C Brown, L Byford, S Donnay, C Evans, D Feltham, C Fletcher, S Frowein, T Miller, D Shorney, F Stevenson, H Tilsey (capt), A Whittall.

MIDLANDS: J Dale, T Walker, D Handy, K Richardson, L Bayliss, H Baker, Sarah Jane Harding (capt), J Sherrard, J Peters.

NORTH: A Hall, L Carrington, H Rowe (capt), A Fleming, J Pearson, A Baker, L Parker, S Medley, N Hepworth, N Maguire, E Ellis, P Corden, F Davison, N Stinson.

SOUTH: A Davey, Y Dendy, F Cheney, S J Dodd, F Bowen, K Scott, J Tacley, L Swain, J Parkinson, L Wadey, C Moss, A Black, A Stroud, K Woods.

IN BRIEF

Bright manages British team in Los Angeles

Ron Bright, who has coached Britain's modern pentathlon Olympic team since 1960, will be team manager this summer in Los Angeles. Bright, a former competitor, coach the British gold medal team in Montreal.

The team coach will be Robbie Phelps, who represented Britain in almost every Olympic Games and world championship between 1964 and 1974. He is the uncle of a team member, Richard Phelps, who leaves on February 24 for training at San Antonio, Texas, and will compete in the United States International in March. The team's coach-armourer is Staff Sergeant Bernie Moss, coach at the Modern Pentathlon Centre of Excellence at Arborfield, Berkshire.

BASKETBALL: With seven players suffering from gastro-enteritis, Austin-Rover Sunderland were given permission by the English Basketball Associaton to postpone last night's crucial first division game at Crystal Palace. The players were examined in their London hotel by a doctor, who advised the EBBA that they were unfit to play. Sunderland's game at Bracknell Pirates tomorrow night is also doubtful.

BOXING: Nino La Rocca, of Italy, meets Gilles Elbilia, of France, the reigning champion, for the European welterweight title at Capo D'Orlando, Sicily, on Sunday. It will be Elbilia's first defence. La Rocca is unbeaten in 56 professional bouts, 43 of his wins having come inside the distance.

TENNIS

Bates in semi-final but Perkis is hard to beat

By Lewine Mair

Jeremy Bates yesterday won his 12th match in 13 starts on the Lawn Tennis Association's £70,000 indoor satellite circuit to take his place in a semi-final line up at Peterborough, in which he meets Wayne Hampson, of Australia, and Ollie Rahnasto, of Finland, meets Peter Lundgren, of Sweden.

Bates found the tall, slim Schacher Perkis, of Israel, a difficult man to beat, but won 1-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Perkis, a soldier in the Israeli army, who is allowed four months a year in which to pursue his sport, came to the tour looking as if he had been starved of rather more than merely tennis.

His play was full of touch, but there was not enough weight of shot to suggest he would make any kind of headway in this company.

However, after two and a half weeks in which he has spent more time on the practice courts than anyone else, he is coming across as a very different proposition. His play in the first set featured some unanswerable passing shots, and it was not long before Bates was lookling glum.

Bates pulled himself together and after winning a close first game, played better better to level the match at one set apiece. He made the better start to the decider, but Perkis kept at him till the end.

Stuart Bale, the only other British player to earn himself a place in the Masters at Bramhall, the week after next, went down, 4-6, 3-6 to Lundgren.

Rahnasto played well in the closing stages, but no one, perhaps, deserved more praise than Hampson. Having won the first set 6-0 and gone to 4-1 in the second, he scraped through 6-0, 4-6, 7-6.

RESULTS J Bates (GB) bt S Perkis (Isr) 1-6, 6-1, 6-4; W Hampson (Aus) bt R Bathman (Swe) 6-0, 4-6, 7-6; O Rhanasto (Fin) bt R Barlow (Aus) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; P Lundgren (Swe) bt S Bale (GB) 6-4, 6-3.

McEnroe in festive mood

Sydney (Reuter) – John McEnroe moved closer to the final of the four-man challenge tournaments here with an easy victory over Mats Wilander, by 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

In the other round-robin match, Guillermo Vilas beat Ivan Lendl 2-6, 6-0, 7-6, 6-0.

McEnroe has now won both his matches while Vilas and Lendl have one victory each.

● LA QUINTA: John Lloydm of Britain, reached the third round of the Grand Prix tournament here yesterday by beating Robert van't Hof, of the United States, 6-1, 6-3

LA QUINTA: Grand Prix tournament second round, (US unless stated). J S Connors bt G Michibata (Can) 6-2, 6-3; Y Noah (Fr) bt T Moor 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; S Glickstein (Israel) bt G Holmes 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; D Pate bt B Gilbert 6-4, 7-5; M Depalmer bt M Dickson 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; H Pfister bt B Manson 6-2, 6-1; T Mayotte bt B Mitton (SA) 7-5, 6-4; E Teltscher bt I Nastase (Rom) 6-2, 6-2; J Arias bt C Panatta (It) 7-6, 6-1; B Teacher bt Edwards (SA) 6-4, 7-6; E Fernandez (Puerto Rico) bt V Gerulaitis 7-6, 6-3; J Lloyd (GB) bt R van't Hof 6-1, 6-3; R Lutz bt R Tanner 7-6, 6-3.







Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Peter Waymark



Austin Rover unveils £5m design unit

Ask any car designer about his job and he will probably say something about the need to reconcile the practical requirements of the vehicle with what is called showroom appeal. – the ability to excite the customer and, even better, persuade him to buy.

It is impossible to say how many sales have been lost because, without even getting into the car, let alone driving it, a potential owner has been dissuaded by the vehicle's appearance. Judging from casual conversations, it happens a lot more frequently than might be thought.

This week Austin Rover lifted the curtain just a little on its design operation, which must of necessity be subject to the utmost security so that what is being planned for models due to be launched in five, even ten, years' time, does not leak to the opposition.

Astonishing as it may seem, though with what used to be called British Leyland nothing surprises, the company's design department was until recently scattered across three sites with inadequate facilities. Hardly conducive to dynamic creation.

Then the old Triumph factory at Canley, near Coventry, stopped production. BL tried to sell it but were hampered by covenants and decided to make a virtue out of necessity be pulling together under one roof most of the functions of Austin Rover, its volume car division.

Among the facilities housed at Canley are new design studies, which, when they are completed, will have cost more than £5m and be able to claim the latest in computer and other technology.

Computers now play a crucial part in the development of car design, not only making the process more accurate but so speeding it up that according to Austin Rover, the average lead time on a new model has been cut from six years to four.

The importance of this is that unlike, say, his opposite number in the fashion business, who only has to plan ahead a few moths, the car designer has somehow to gauge the tastes and needs of motorists in serveral years' time when conditions may be quite different from those obtaining today.

The Austin Rover design director is Mr Roy Axe, a passable double for Eric Morecambe who until he took up his job two years ago had spent his career with Rootes and then Chrysler, latterly in the United States. Given the lead times referred to, the first Austin Rover model to bear what might be called the Axe marks is the XX executive saloon due next year.

This is the car that BL has developed jointly with Honda of Japan and it will be fascinting to see how the collaboration works out. Each company is producing its own version of the XX from a basic common design and the biggest difference will be in external appearance.



The Volvo 360 – now available as a four-door saloon

With each new model after that Mr Axe and his 110-strong design team will be aiming for a family resemblance to a greater extent than the company has attempted so far though when the LM11 medium saloon is launched in April, keen eyes may spot something of the flavour of its mechanically similar stablemate, the Maestro.

Mr Axe says his aim is "to produce designs which are contemporary in every way. Designs which create eye appeal but not at the expense of practical virtues. Our philosophy is to achieve a balance between all functional requirements, coupled with an appearance that generated excitement.".

Excitement stems largely from individuality, but are not cars tending to look more and more alike and is that not inevitable, given the various constraints upon a designer, from the technical to the functional and the legislative?.

In other words, once you have created sufficient space for the engine, powertrain and suspension units; provided ample seating, leg room and head room for four or five people; and met legal requirements on lights, bumper heights and crashworthiness; is not the look of the vehicle going to come out very much the same, whether the manufacturer is Austin Rover, General Motors, Nissan or anyone else?

Mr Axe is naturally alive to the danger and realizes that his creations will be judged on how sucessfully he manages to avoid it. The XX must somehow offer everything that the customer expects from an executive car in ride, comfort, performance and so on, while looking qite distinctive from the Audi 100 and the Volvo 760 and, indeed, te current Rover which eventually it is likely to supersede.

One of the biggest factors producing conformity in recent car designs has been aerodynamics. Once fuel saving became issue number one in the wake of the oil crisis, so aerodynamics, which involves creating more streamlined shapes setting up less air resistance and hence giving more miles to the gallon, was the new sacred cow.

But as far as Austin Rover is concerned, it will be a sacred cow no longer. As Mr Axe's colleague responsible for exterior design, Mr Gordon Sked, puts it, "slavish obedience to aerodynamic characteristics must not reduce individuality. If it is sometimes difficult for designers to differentiate vehicles, how can the public tell the difference?

"Designers in the 1970s were criticized for encouraging a 'Euro-look' – particularly in front end design. I am determined that we shall not be similarly rebuked for allowing aerodynamics to encourage a similar lack of individual identity."

Road Test: Volvo 360GLE

The Dutch-built "small" Volvo got off to a dreadful start in Britain but is now one of the most popular imported cars. Last year 36,753 were sold her, more than BL managed for the Ital, Ambassador or Rover, and among foreign makes only the Nissan Sunny did better.

The car's unhappy launch was due to a combination of factors: it was absurdly overpriced was offered in only one version and even fell short in areas of traditional Volvo strength, quality and reliability. One by one these handicaps were removed and the range seems to go from strength to strength.

The latest version, the GLE, went on sale here just before Christmas but is as yet in limited supply. It has a two litre engine, available either in fuel-injected or carburettor form, and a five-speed gearbox, and is the first model in the 300 range to have a saloon, rather than a hatchback, bodyshell.

The styling of the front three-quarters of the car is much as before but at the back it has a high, square tail, housing the boot, and overall is four inches longer. The boot, fully carpeted, offers a usefule 12.8 cubic ft of load space and there is a hinged pael in the rear seat which allows long objects to be pushed through.

The extra inches have all gone to the boot and though the car is as long as, say, the Ford Sierra, it does not have the same iterior space as some rivals. Rear seat passengers have ample headroom but the long legged will only be comfortable if the front seats are moved forward. If and when Volvo replace the car, they must surely go over to front-wheel drive to release more room inside.

I have been driving the GLE in its carburettor form, slightly surprised that Volvo still employ a manual choke. Developing 92 bhp (compared with the 115 of the fuel-injected version), the engine gives adequate, if not rapid, acceleration through the gears but scores of flexibility: even in fifth, an overdrive gear, it is possible to pull away quite strongly.

With two litres powering a car that is by no means heavy for its class, fuel consumption should perhaps be lower. My average return was a modest 25 mpg, though as the official figures indicate, considerably better results can be obtained by maintaining a steady cruising speed in fifth gear.

But the introduction of the bigger engine – the other one is a 1400 unit – has improved refinement. Mechanical noise is never intrusive and at 70 mph in top the engine is turning over at a relaxed 2,800 rpm; the only noticeable wind noise appears to come from the large outside mirror. Refinement has also been helped by the fitting of new hydraulic engine mountings.

The steering is a little heavy for parking but is otherwise accurate and responsive and the brakes are reassuringly powerful. The ride-/handling compromise could be happier for while the ride is on the firm side, tending towards choppiness on rough surfaces, there is still some bodyroll. Roadholding, however, is excellent.

The seats are of generous size and well shaped and in the front are equipped with lumbar supports, allowing adjustment for the firmness of the backrest. The driver has the bonus of a seat cushion that automatically heats in cold weather. The comprehensive heating and ventilation system produces a powerful flow of either hot, or cool, air, or a combination, and rear passengers have their own controls.

The Volvo 360 is not a dramatic car and it has no outstanding features to set it apart from its competitors, which include the other medium saloons like the Sierra, Vauxhall Cavalier and Renault 18. Rather it satisfies the demand, particularly evident in Britain, for a vehicle that does the basic things well, is solidly build and well finished and should not let its owner down.

Vital Statistics

Model: Volvo 360GLE
Price: £6,699
Engine: 1986cc 4-cyl
Performance: Top speed 106 mph, 0-60 12 seconds
Official consumption: urban 25.4 mpg; 56 mph 46.3 mpg; 75 mph 35.3
Length: 14ft 4in
Insurance: Group 6

PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM

THERE ARE MANY DEVICES in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand. Proverbs 19. 21.

BIRTHS

BIRTHDAYS

FOR SHELLEY FOX on his 3rd birthday from his mummy and godfather.

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DEATHS

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalie

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM. A selection of News and information items, available on every TV set.
6.30 Breakfast Time: with Selina Scott and Mike Smith. Today's Friday "specials" include Alan Titchmarsh's gardening hints (between 7.20 - 7.45), pop news (7.45 and 8.00) and food and cookery (between 8.30 and 9.00). Regular items include news at 6.30, then half-hourly until 8.30. Sport (6.40, 7.40), TV Choice (6.55), Morning papers review (7.18 and 8.18) and Your Stars (8.33).
9.00 Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle: cartoon series; 9.20 My Music: Steve Race puts the questions to Frank Muir and John Amis, and Denis Norden and Ian Wallace (r); 9.45 Ceefax pages; 10.30 Play School; 10.55 Play Ideas; 11.05 Ceefax pages; 12.15 Bagpuss; 12.30 News After Noon; 12.57 Financial Report and sub-titled news.
1.00 Olympic Grandstand: Live coverage of the first two runs of the Four-Man Bobsleigh event. Also Ski-ing: the Ladies Slalom (see also 6.40 entry, and 10.50).
3.15 The Fenlands: How the rich farmlands of south Lincolnshire have kept their head above water. With Catherine Wilson, Keeper of Lincolnshire History.
3.50 Magic Roundabout; 3.55 Play School: It's Friday; 4.20 The Adventures of Tin Tin: cartoon adventure; 4.25 Jackanory: Bernard Holley with more pages from Joan Eadington's Jonny Briggs and the Jubilee Concert; 4.40 Wildtrack: Cub reporter Matthew Woods on the trail of the rare edible dormouse (eaten in Roman times, apparently but not any more). 5.05 Grange Hill: Episode 14 (of 18). More about Diane Cooney and her make-believe boyfriend. With Julie-Ann Steel as Diane. 5.35 The Wombles.
5.40 Sixty Minutes. The line-up is: - news (5.40), weather (5.45), regional magazines (5.55) and closing headlines (6.38).
6.40 Olympic Grandstand: Ski-ing: the Ladies Slalom. And Ice Hockey, in which the winners of Group B plays the runners-up in Group A.
7.05 Match of the Day – Live: Blackburn Rovers v Southampton. Jimmy Hill introduces the programme and the match commentator is John Motson.
9.00 News: the reader is Sue Lawley. And weather prospects for the weekend.
9.25 Remington Steele: After reading the manuscript of his wife's book, a husband fears for his life. Then, he mysteriously disappears from a party.
10.15 The Further Adventures of Lucky Jim: Enn Reitel plays Kingsley Amis's hero, recreated by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (r).
10.45 News. And weather for the weekend.
10.50 Olympic Grandstand: Ice Hockey – Group A winners against the Group B runners-up. The commentator is Alan Weeks.
11.20 Film: Bad Man's River (1971) Filmed-in-Spain western about a tussle over a million-dollar cheque. Lee Van Cleef plays the leader of a gang of bank robbers in Texas. Gina Lollobrigida plays the "widow" who intends to take the outlaw for everything he has. Also starring James Mason, as a Mexican revolutionary. Directed by Gene Martin. Ends at 12.50am.

tv-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Today's Friday "specials" include Checkout (6.40), guest of the day Lynsey de Paul (7.40), and in Fantasy Time at 8.10, Weekend Breaks (8.20), TV Highlights (8.35), Diana Dors (8.45) and Checkout Again (9.03). Regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 8.30; and Competition Time (8.27).

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames News headlines. 9.30 For Schools. The line-up is: 9.30 Your Living Body; 9.47 Full Steam Ahead; 10.09 Children's secret places; 10.26 Introduction to Time; 10.43 Understanding the Economy; 11.05 Middle English; 11.22 Animal Movie: cartoon; 11.39 Brother, Can you Spare a Dime?
12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch: for the toddlers; 12.10 Rainbow; repeated at 12.10; 12.30 Survival: Down in the Forest. A film about the national parks of Sri Lanka (r).
1.00 News; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 About Britain: The Wash. The farming threat to this famous natural sanctuary for birds and seals.
2.00 Just our Luck: comedy series about a weather man and a genie; 2.30 Falcon Crest: It is Nick's and Sheila's wedding – but nobody can guess what lies ahead; 3.30 Sons and Daughters: Fiona's connections with Wayne affect her relationship with Scott.
4.00 Children's ITV: Rainbow; 4.20 Batfink: cartoon; 4.25 Sooty; 4.50 Freetime: with Mick Robertson and Trudi Dance; 5.15 The Young Doctors: Australian medical world drama series.
5.45 News; 6.00 the 6 o'Clock Show: Michael Aspel in a live news programme with studio guests.
7.00 The Zodiac Game: with the astrologer Bernard Fitzwalter, and studio guests Stu Francis, Peter Gilmore, Maureen Lipman and Madeline Smith. The MC: Tom O'Connor.
7.30 The A-Team: Another story involving these present-day soldiers of fortune. Starring George Peppard.
8.30 A Fine Romance: Final instalment of this romantic comedy series which have been several cuts above the average thanks to fine performances from Judi Dench and Michael Williams and truthful dialogue from Bob Larbey. Tonight: Laura's parents arrive for the wedding.
9.00 Killer Waiting: Thriller, by Eric Wendell, co-starring John Thaw and Diane Keen. With Stafford Gordon. An army officer, living in an isolated farmhouse, is warned that he is about to be murdered.
10.00 News at Ten. Followed by: London news headlines.
10.30 The London Programme: The capital is about to see an eruption of superstores (much bigger than supermarkets). The programme shows that the companies planning to establish them (Sainsbury's, Tesco etc) have won planning permission only by appealing to the government after local council's objections.
11.00 Bosom Buddies: American comedy series with Tom Hanks and Peter Scolari.
11.30 South of Watford: London's itinerant clubs (The Dirtbox, for example, and The Circus). The presenter: Ben Elton.
12.00 Bizarre: Comedy series, with John Byner.
12.30 Dragnet: Joe Friday (Jack Webb) helps a woman torn by conflicting loyalties. Followed by Dr Una Kroll's Night Thoughts.

Blaze victim: Day of the Fireball (BBC2, 7.45pm)

● THE DAY OF THE FIREBALL (BBC 2, 7.45pm) reminds us yet again that when it comes to disaster movies, fiction has nothing on fact. It will be a very foolish person indeed who, in the future, will attempt to go one better than this *World About Us* film and deck out the story with all the sensational trappings of commercial cinema. A year ago this week, tides of flames swept across a tinder-dry southern Australia, leaving death and destruction in their wake. *Tonight's* film is both a record of that ferocious catastrophe (were there, one wonders, bravery awards for the camera crews and reporters – and if not, why not?), and a sombre contemplation of the task of rebuilding new communities to replace those wiped out in the holocaust.

CHOICE

● NANOOK OF THE NORTH (Channel 4, 3.45pm) is Robert Flaherty's film about the daily round of the Eskimo, that was transmuted into an epic of survival thanks to Flaherty's humanitarianism and narrative skill. The building of an igloo; a walrus hunt; the catching of a seal; unsophisticated family fun. Set out baldly like this, the elements in *Nanook of the North* do not sound impressive. But, with the benefit of hindsight – Flaherty's cheerful and resilient Eskimo hero died of starvation two years after the film was made, in 1922 – we can now appreciate the full enormity of this deceptively simple drama.

● WAR AND PEACE IN OUR TIME (Radio 4, 4.10pm), Geoffrey Stern's seven-part series about the ultimate madness, gets off to a promising start today by setting out the wide range of alternatives to human nature and divine punishment that queue up for inspection when considering the reasons for the apparent inevitability of war. As the weeks progress, Mr Stern will doubtless present testimony from living authorities. Today, it is mainly the dead who speak, from the depths of the BBC archives. But they were famous, often influential, voices (Shaw, Churchill, Aldous Huxley, Kipling, Joad, Jung, Baden-Powell), and their combined philosophies, together with modern projections of them, will doubtless form the soil in which Mr Stern, in succeeding episodes, will plant his arguments as to whether war can ever be prevented, or at least limited in scope.

BBC 2

6.05 Open University (until 8.10).
9.05 Daytime on Two (until 2.40). The line up is: - 9.08 Food and Population; 9.35 Maths-in-a-Box (*Weight Watchers*); 9.52 The Boy from Space (5); 10.15 Mathscore Two; 10.38 Exploring Science (cells); 11.00 (drawing and painting flowers and butterflies); 11.22 River Landscapes; 11.44 Going to Work; 12.05 Making the Most of the Micro; 12.30 *Micros in the Classroom*; 12.55 Speak for Yourself (late for work).
1.20 Pages from Ceefax; 1.38 Around Scotland (behind the scenes at a department store); 2.01 The reality of being a parent; 2.30 TV reporter Kate Adie shows what her job entails; Plus a discussion; 2.50 Ceefax pages.
5.05 Weekend Outlook: Open University trailers. 5.10 Talking to Children; OU film in which teenagers working on a CSE course consider the characteristics of infant language; 5.35 News.
5.40 Film: Murder Most Foul (1964*) Agatha Christie's sleuth Miss Marple (gloriously impersonated by Margaret Rutherford) investigates a murder in the ranks of a third-rate repertory company. The supporting cast includes James Bolam, Terry Scott and Francesca Annis. Director: George Pollock.
7.05 ORS 84: The main band featured tonight is The Alarm. Making their television debut: Night Catchers. Marc Almond demonstrates the "Black Magic Job Finder".
7.45 The World Around Us: The Day of the Fireball: The terrifying story of Ash Wednesday, 1983, when 76 died and 2,000 homes were destroyed by a runaway bushfire in South Australia. (see Choice).
8.35 Gardeners' World: The winter-flowering shrubs and plants in Sonia Kinahan's half-acre garden at St Leonards-on-Sea.
9.00 M*A*S*H: Bribery and violence when Hawkeye, B.J. and Charles have to decide who gets promoted in the 4077th.
9.25 Whicker! The topic is divorce, in the studio, Baroness Thyssen, Mel Calman, and Hollywood divorce lawyer Marvin Mitchelson.
10.00 Dame Edna Everage: A Birthday Tribute. Live, by satellite, from Sydney, on the occasion of Dame Edna's entering into her 51st year. Affectionate thoughts are contributed by Sir Les Patterson, the cultural attaché, and Barry Humphries who is not unconnected with Dame Edna.
10.55 Newsnight.
11.40 A Whistle Test Special: The Icicle Works, on stage and facing a capacity audience, at Sefton Park, Liverpool last summer. Ends at 12.25am.

CHANNEL 4

3.45 Film: Nanook of the North (1922) Robert Flaherty's famous documentary about the life of an Eskimo and his family complements tomorrow night's Channel 4 documentary about Eskimo life in the 1980s, *People of the Islands* (see Choice).
5.00 Television Scrabble: The final was screened yesterday. Tonight brings a special exhibition match between the winners and this year's national Scrabble champion, Colin Gumbrell, and his partner, Anne Bradford. The programme presenter: Alan Coren, editor of *Punch*.
5.30 The Tube: pop music show. Among tonight's guest is Gary Moore, performing with his new band plus Big Country and Fiction Factory.
7.00 Channel Four News. And weather prospects for the weekend.
7.30 Right to Reply: Karen Armstrong confronts critics of her series The First Christian, about St Paul.
8.00 A Week in Politics: with Peter Jay. The row over the EEC budget. And the latest on the Chesterfield by-election.
8.40 What the Papers Say: Anthony Howard, of the Observer, examines the way different newspapers have covered the same stories.
9.00 Dream Stuffing: Comedy series about two flat-sharers (Rachel Weaver and Amanda Symonds). Tonight: jealousy rears its ugly head.
9.30 The Lady is a Tramp: Brand-new series of comedy half hours featuring Patricia Hayes and Pat Coombs as the tramps who live among the down-and-outs in an abandoned van on a city refuse dump. The writer: Johnny Speight who created *Till Death Do Us Part*. Tonight, the two tramps want to find a visitor has spent the night in their yard. They decide to take advantage of him in their characteristic way.
10.00 Cheers: Yet another comedy half-hour for Friday night Channel 4 viewers. A former boyfriend of Diane's (Shelley Long) walks back into her life, but he appears to have more than friendship in mind when he invites her out to dinner.
10.30 Well Being: The stories of two middle-aged women, Nell and Pat, both married, who have to care for their senile mothers. It is a responsibility that has driven them to desperate lengths. On occasions they admit to having used physical violence.
11.15 Film: The Big Heat (1953*) Highly-rated Fritz Lang thriller, about a cop whose wife is killed in an explosion meant for him, resigns from the force and sets off on a trail of vengeance. Strong support from Gloria Grahame, Alexander Scourby, Jocelyn Brando and Lee Marvin. Ends at 12.55.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing; Weather.
6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 Today's News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.50 Your Letters. 8.57 Weather.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. The castaway is Lord Elwyn-Jones.† (r).
9.45 Feedback.
10.00 News; Science Now.
10.30 Morning Story: 'The Nest-Builder' by V S Pritchett. The reader is Hugh Dixon.
10.45 Daily Service.
11.00 News; Travel; You the Jury. Current issues are put on trial. Today's motion is: In Britain, the rule of law must be absolute. With Lord Denning and Jack Dromey.
11.48 Natural Selection.
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 Funny Peculiar. The panellists: Russell Grant, Maureen Lipman and Pete Murray (r).
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour from Birmingham. Includes an item about army wives who feel that society has neglected them and, as a result, have decided to help themselves. There is also the fifth instalment of Mrs Pooter's Diary, read by Judi Dench.
3.00 News; The Fountain Overflows by Rebecca West. Episode 3.†
4.00 News; Just After Four. With the poet and pianist Roy Fisher.
4.10 War and Peace in Our Time (new series). Geoffrey Stern examines the persistence of warfare. (1) Why War? (see Choice).
4.40 Story Time: 'Atlantic City Proof' by Christopher Cook Gilmore (10). Read by the author.
5.00 PM: News magazine. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Going Places.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week. Margaret Howard with more highlights.
8.10 Profile. A personal portrait.
8.30 Any Questions? from Abingdon, Oxfordshire. With Claire Rayner, John Pardoe, Clare Short and Angela Rumbold.
9.15 Letter From America by Alastair Cooke.
9.30 Glyn Worsnip in the BBC Sound Archives.
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine. Tonight's topics include Ian Banks's book The Wasp Factory; Shaw's St Joan at the Olivier Theatre; the film Star 80; this year's Oscar nominations; and A Historical Look at Pop Videos, at the Olympus Gallery.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'The Lost Domain' by Alain-Fournier (5). The reader is Michael Williams.
10.30 The World Tonight, including Financial World Tonight
11.15 Week Ending.
11.45 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News. 12.10 Weather.
ENGLAND VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Travel. 10.45-12.00 For Schools. 1.55-2.00 Listening Corner. 2.00-3.00 For Schools. 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-12.00 Study on 4.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one. Glinka's overture Summer Night in Madrid; Garbrieli's Canzona VIII (1615), played by London Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble; and Mozart's String Quartet in C major, K 515 (Esterhazy Quartet). 8.00 News.†
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Barber's Adagio for strings; Carissimi's In un mar di pensieri (with Martyn Hill, tenor); Vaughan Williams's The Lark Ascending (Zukerman and English Chamber Orchestra); Weber's Clarinet Conc No 1 in F minor (Goodman/Chicago SO). 9.00 News.†
9.05 This Week's Compsoer: Tchaikovsky. The Berlin Phil Orch, under Furtwangler, play the Symphony No 6 (Pathétique).†
10.00 Moscheles: Isabel Beyer and Harvey Dagul (two pianos) play the Sonata Symphonique Op 112.†
10.30 *Northern Sinfonia*: with David Haslam (flute). Bach's Sinfonia from Cantata No 42; Lennox Berkeley's Sinfonietta for chamber orchestra; Mozart's Flute Concerto No 2, and Haydn's Symph No 39.†
11.35 Songs for Children: recital by Janet Price (soprano) with Antony Saunders as her accompanist. Adrian Beaumont's Songs for *Little Children*, Set 1; and Schumann's Songs from Lieder-Album fur die Jugend, Op 79.†
12.15 Midday Concert: part one. BBC Concert Orch, with John Harle (saxophone). Gordon Langford's overture Spirit of London; Eric Coates's Saxo-Rhapsody; and Malcolm Arnold's English Dances, Sets 1 and 2. 1.00 News.†
1.05 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.
1.20 Midday Concert: part two. Gordon Jacobs's overture The Barber of Seville Goes to the Devil; and Sullivan's Symphony in E (Irish).†
2.00 Cello and Piano: recital by Stefan Popov and Allan Schiller. *Brahms's Sonata in D major, Op 78*; and Bartok's Rhapsody No 1.†
2.40 Berwald: Marian Midgal and the Royal Phil Orch play the Piano Concerto in D, and the same orchestra plays the Sinfonie Capricieuse.†
3.25 Ruth Dyson: harpsichord recital. Blow's Ground in G; Purcell's Suite in D minor and Suite No 5 in C; and Blow's Prelude.†
4.00 Choral Evensong: from Worcester Cathedral. 4.55 News.†
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: Fritz Spiegl introduces music which is uncharacteristic of the composers he has selected.†
6.30 Music for Guitar: First United Kingdom performances (by Paul Gregory) of Richard Stoker's Sonatina, Op 42; John Woolrich's Two Nocturnal Dances, and Oliver Hunt's Babushka.†
7.05 Milhaud and Francaix: Milhaud's Sonatina, and Francaix's Divertimento (Graham Mayger, flute; and Gordon Stewart, piano).†
7.30 Alban Berg Quartet: From the BBC's Manchester studios. Concert. Part one. Mozart's Quartet in B flat, K458 (The Hunt); and Boulez's Two movements from Livre pour quatuor.
8.05 A Day in the Life of . . . . . James Agate.
8.25 Alban Berg Quartet: Concert, part two. Schubert's Quartet in D Minor (Death and the Maiden).†
9.15 No Zombie Biologist: Dr Sidney Brenner, Director of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, in Cambridge, in conversation with Professor Lewis Wolpert of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London.
9.45 American Orchestral Music: Thea King (clarinet) is the soloist with the BBC Scottish SO. We hear Barber's Essay No 1 for Orchestra, Op 38; Copland's Clarinet Concerto; and Hovhaness's Concerto for Orchestra, No 7, Op 116.†
10.40 Niels Viggo Bentzon: The Danish *composer's work we hear tonight is the Sonata No 3, Op 44 (played* by John Clegg). Also, Grieg's Lyric Pieces, Op 43.†
11.15 News. Until 11.18.

Radio 2

4.00am Colin Berry† 5.30 Ray Moore† 7.30 Terry Wogan†incl. 8.31 Racing Bulletin 10.00 Jimmy Young† 12.00pm *Steve Jones*†incl. 1.05 Sport. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford†incl. 2.02; 3.02 Sport. 3.30 Music all the Way† 4.00 David Hamilton†incl. 4.02; 5.02 Sport 6.00 John Dunn†incl. 6.02 Sport 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only) 7.30 Male Voice Choir Competition†The second round. Eight choirs compete in this annual knock-out competition 8.15 Friday Night is Music Night direct from The Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. The singers are Ramon Remedios, Julia Meadows and the Charles Young Chorale.† 9.30 Old Stagers (s) The second of ten programmes with Brian Haines 2: Hutch† 9.55 Sports Desk 10.00 The Best of Bentine 10.30 Sounds of the North. Mike Harding presents Sounds of Cumbria and the North East 11.00 Stuart Hall, incl. (stereo from midnight) 11.02 *Cricket 12.05 Cricket 1.00 Jean Challis*†presents Nightride, incl. 1.02; 2.02 Cricket 3.00-4.00 Night Owls†with Dave Gelly, incl. 3.02 Cricket.

Radio 1

6.00am Adrian John 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Simon Bates 11.30 Mike Smith, incl. 12.30 Newsbeat 2.00 Gary Davies 4.30 Select-a-disc with Janice Long 5.30 Newsbeat 5.45 Roundtable 7.00 Andy Peebles 9.00-12.00 The Friday Rock Show with Tommy Vance (stereo from 10.00).

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Rock Back the Clock. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The Bach Family. 8.30 Women of The World. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Album Time. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 Business Matters. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 *Outlook*. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science in Action. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Sarah and Company 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four hours. 9.15 Music Now. 9.45 The Painter of Signs. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 *World News. 11.09 Commentary*. 11.15 From the Weeklies. 11.30 Towards a Protectionist World. *12.00 World News. 12.09 News about* Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Sarah and Company. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Classical Record Review. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 The Seven Deadly Sins. 3.50 Recording of the Week. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Let There Be Drums. 5.45 The World Today.

All times in GMT

BBC 1 Wales. 12.57-1.00 pmNews. 3.48-3.50 News. 5.55 Wales Today. 10.15-10.50 Week In Week Out. 11.20-11.35 Sportfolio (Wales v France preview). 11.35-11.36 News. 11.36-1.15 am Film: Puzzle of a Downfall Child (1970) starring Faye Dunaway. *Scotland. 12.55-1.00 pm News. 5.55* Scotland: Sixty minutes. 7.05-7.25 Mickey and Donald. 7.25-9.00 The White Bird Passes. 9.25-10.00 Friday Night with Dougie Donnelly. 10.00-10.27 Agenda. 10.27-10.30 News. 10.30-10.50 Beechgrove Garden. Northern Ireland. 12.57-1.00 pm News. 3.48-3.50 News. 5.55 Scene Around Six. 10.15-10.45 Spotlight. 10.45- 10.50 News. 11.20-1.00 am Film: Puzzle of a Downfall Child (1970) starring Faye Dunaway. 1.00 News. England. 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes. 10.15 East, weekend. Midlands, Midlands Tonight. North, Northern Lights. North East, Coast to Coast. North West, Bonny Brid. South, Southern Life: A Game of Horses. South West, Country Scene. West, Women and Waugh. 12.50 am Close.

S4C Starts: 2.00pm Flenestri. 2.20 Stori Sbri. 2.35 Hyn O Fyd. 2.55 ack's Game. 3.20 Making of Britain. 3.50 Today's History. 4.15 Television Scrabble. 4.45 Corachod. 5.00 Be Ness'? 5.30 The Tube. 7.00 Newyddon Saith. 7.35 Edrych Trwy Y Camerau. 8.00 Pobol Y Cwm. 8.30 Y Byd Yn Ei Le. *9.15 Cheers. 9.45 Soap. 10.15* Boy in The Bush. 11.15 Whoops Apoclypse. 11.45 Stand Your Ground. 12.15am Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-3.30 Film: Street Killing. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 10.30 Cross *Question. 11.05 Film: Major Dundee* (Charlton Heston). 1.20am Birgitta and Swante. Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

ULSTER As London except: 9.25-9.30am Day Ahead. 11.39-12.00 Pieces of Eight. 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.00 Film: "Topper Takes a Trip". *3.30-4.00* Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.45-7.00 Advice. 10.30 Witness. 10.35 Sportscast. 11.20 Magnum. 12.15am News, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Limping Man (Lloyd Bridges).* 3.25-3.30 Cartoon. 6.00 Calendar. 7.00 A-Team. 8.00-8.30 That's My Boy. 10.30 Shelley. 11.00 Rugby League. 11.55 Last Outlaw. 12.50am Closedown.

HTV As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Treasure of San Teresa (Christopher Lee). 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Joanie loves Chachi. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Problems. 10.30 Good Neighbour Show. 11.00 Film: Santee (Glenn Ford). 12.40 Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 11.05am-11.20 About Wales. 6.00pm-7.00 Wales at Six. 10.30-11.00 In a Chord.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20 News. 1.30-3.30 Film: Bhowani Junction (Ava Gardner). 5.15-5.45 Zodiac Game. 6.00 News. 7.00 A-Team. 8.00-8.30 That's My Boy. 10.35 Sweeney. 11.35 Film: Loot (Richard Attenborough). 1.20am Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Farming Brief. 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20 News. 1.30 Club. 1.35 About britain. 2.05 Old Wive's Remedies. *2.10 Film: Trouble in Store* (Norman Wisdom). 3.45 Sportsbreak. 3.50- 4.00 A-Z. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30 Friday Sportshow. 7.00 A-Team. 8.00-8.30 Zodiac Game. 10.30 Shelley. 11.00 Showcase. 11.15 Film: Frankenstein and The Monster From Hell. 1.00am Company, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-3.30 Film: Floods of Fear*. 5.15-545 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55-7.00 What's on Where. 10.35 15 Minuets to Live. 11.00 Film: Circus of Horror. 12.40am *Closedown*.

GRAMPIAN As London except 9.25am First Thing. 12.30pm-1.00 A Better Read. 2.00-2.30 Strange But True. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Harlem Globetrotters. 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 10.30 Country Focus. 12.35am News, Closedown.

TSW As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-3.30 Film: Floods of Fear* (*Howard* Keel). 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 What's Ahead. 10.34 Shelley. 11.00 Film: Circus of Horrors. 12.40am Postcript, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.00 Laurel and Hardy Double Bill. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Zodiac Game. 5.45 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 Weekend. 7.00 A-Team. 8.00-8.30 That's My Boy. 10.30 House Calls. 11.00 Rugby League. 11.55 Film: Dynamite Man From Glory Gaol (James Stewart). 1.45am Closedown.

BORDER As London except 12.30pm-1.00 A Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Penny Gold (Francesca Annis). 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 Newhart. 10.30 Your MP. 11.00 Rugby League. 12.05am. Curling. 12.40 News, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News and Lookaround. 2.00-3.30 Film: Watch Your Stern* (Kenneth Connor). 5.15-5.45 Silver Spoons. 6.00 News. 6.02 Zodiac Game. 6.30 Northern Life. 8.00-8.30 That's My Boy. 10.32 Film: Lady in the Car With Glasses and a Gun (Samantha Eggar). 12.20am Three's Company, Closedown.

SCOTTISH *As London except:* 12.30pm-1.00 A Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-4.00 Film: Mine Own Executioner* (Burgess Meredith). 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30 Sports Extra. 6.45-7.00 Hear Here. 10.30 Ways And Means. 11.10 Late Call. 12.05am Curling. 12.40 Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

Entertainments

Homes monopoly by solicitors to be ended

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government will today indicate steps which will eventually break up the solicitors' monopoly on house conveyancing.

It has decided to establish an independent committee to consider the qualifications and standards which conveyancers who are not solicitors will be required to achieve to provide adequate protection for the consumer.

It will be accepting the principle that non-solicitors can do conveyancing work, a concession which has led Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, to decide to withdraw his House Buyers Bill, which surprisingly won a second reading in the Commons last December.



Mr Mitchell: Withdrawal from House Buyers Bill.

On that occasion Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor-General, foreshadowed government legislation which would have allowed banks and building societies to offer conveyancing services in competition with solicitors' firms, but they would still have had to employ solicitors to do the work.

He also announced that a Law Commission committee would be set up to consider simplifying practice and procedure.

These moves failed to satisfy Mr Mitchell or the many Conservative MPs who backed his Bill. The monopoly was being loosened but not broken, they argued.

Since then Mr Mitchell and his backers have been in intensive negotiations with the Government. Their efforts have been resisted by statements by the Prime Minister, who has at least twice since the talks began, spoken of her desire to break professional monopolies with the support of key ministers.

The independent committee will report by September, and the Government is likely to promise legislation in the next session of Parliament.

He is also expected to announce an inter-departmental inquiry to conduct a wide-ranging inquiry into the house transfer system with the aim of making purchase simpler and cheaper.

Thatcher firm on GCHQ

Continued from page 1

established such a "conflict of loyalties" was the main reason for faltering progress towards a compromise.

But Mr Peter Jones, Secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said last night: "I do not believe that the public is prepared to believe what the Prime Minister is saying and at an increasing volume, inside and outside Parliament, it is being said that there must be an agreement with the unions".

The unions have put forward proposals in the four areas which the Government said needed to be resolved when the ban was first announced at the beginning of the month.

Last night, it was being said that removal of trade unionists' ability to appeal against unfair dismissals to industrial tribunals was a minor problem.

Next, in ascending order of disagreement, came the unions' offer of legally binding "no disruption" agreements, and the issue of preventing national union officials appearing inside sensitive government communications centres.

But the main sticking point was seen as the conflict of loyalties alleged by the Government, with Cabinet officials suggesting that non-unionists at Cheltenham would have the same negotiating rights as union members. That was seen by the unions as an attempt to remove most of their powers, so that members would question the value of subscriptions.

The unions claim that fewer than 1,000 of the 7,000 staff at GCHQ have agreed to resign union membership in return for £1,000. Their aim over the next few days will be to ensure that here is no futher drift away while talks continue.

Parliament, page 4
Letters, page 13



Depressed market: Cattle fetching low prices at the Granthan cattle auction ring yesterday (Photograph: John Manning).

Grantham spurns view of privileged farmers

By Colin Hughes

Farmers at market in the Prime Minister's home town, Grantham, gloomily watched the auctioneer's hammer knocking down their sheep, pigs, and cattle at lower than average prices yesterday, as they discussed Mrs Margaret Thatcher's decision to set up a working party to question all their privileges and benefits.

They phlegmatically responded: "It's a fashion, knocking farmers. They come and go." The auctioneer, Mr Peter Whitton, looking at beef heifers as they brawled in the ring after being sold for up to 20p per kilo below the fixed EEC price, commented: "The image of the Range Rover farmer growing fat on the taxpayer is a complete fantasy".

The Prime Minister's decision to include agriculture in a review of monopoly powers and advantages signals growing doubt over what even some farmers believe to be excessive privileges.

Mr Richard Body, Conservative MP for Boston, Lincolnshire, has estimated the total cost of agricultural support to the consumer and taxpayer in Britain at around £3,350m a year. Of that, £1,500m a year is what he calculates as the "indirect tax" paid by the Common Agricultural Policy's import duties, levies, and export subsidies.

Farmers are VAT exempt, incurring a loss in revenue of £300m a year to the Treasury. Another £200m is "lost" because agricultural land is exempt from rates. Other tax concessions enable farmers to write-off investment in machinery from one year's profit.

Mr Robert Ingamells, a smallholder who part owns and part rents 140 acres of mixed farm in the nearby village of Berkston, said: "There are rich farmers, but it's the big ones who benefit. Others have had to overborrow to stay in business, and people like me would be driven out. It would be a similar story to that famous grocer's shop if these benefits were withdrawn."

Mr John Fisher, who rents 560 acres with his father Fred, from the Denton estate at Wellby, agreed: "If people want to remove subsidies and support they will have to pay for it in the shops. Ther's barely a farmer in the country that could pay it out of their own pockets."

A lingering jealousy lies behind the clash on subsidies, which many farners can only appreciate by looking at the prices of "corn and horn" chalked on the seller's boards.

Mr Michael Goodacre, who farms cattle, lamb, cereals, and potatoes, said: "It really boils down to arable farmers being protected in the last five years. They have benefited from subsidies, while livestock farmers are paying over the odds for feed.

"If I completely sold up and put my capital in a building society I would be better off than I am now."

However, Lincolnshire farmers,as with others in Britain, have benefited hugely from a welter of grants to build new barns drain land, amalgamate farms, and invest in modern equipment.

Training, research, and professional advice, are provided by the taxpayer, at a cost of about £130m a year. As Mr Bidy puts it: "Few farmers nowadays do without an accountant to find their way through all the benefits. None pay for consultants – it is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture."

Protectionism and state subsidies are archenemies to the new Conservatice economics. However, many of the party's voters would have been represented in Grantham's sale hall yesterday. Most doubt whether the Government is ready to take on a thorough untangling of farmer's privileges.

Mr Roy Chapman, branch secretary of Grantham National Farmer's Union said the reductions in agricultural support have already been heavy. He said: "Since we went into the Common Market the only advantage farmers here have gained is from the Farm and Horticultural Grant Scheme, and that runs out soon. You ask farmers now what benefits they get and they don't know – they call it the CAP: Common Agricultural Puzzle."

Part of the puzzle is the policy on shortfall prices. Farmers whose produce sells below the average fixed price get the remainder paid to them by Brussels. That policy, the farmers know, can only continue with fierce protection against foreign imports.

Mr Chapman is unsure. "Even if there were no import levies and duties, would the price be any lower? Many doubt it." Mr Body's belief, that cheaper foodstuffs would enable British farmers to go back to producing quality livestock, is hypothetical for the Lincolnshire farmer.

As one cattle breeder put it: "We are already hocking our way through the bad times. Any more costs would break the industry's back" Borrowing is fine for those who own farms, but for the small tenant it is an additional inequality.

Mr Chapman comments: "Perhaps it is a good thing to reappraise it all, so that we can answer the question none of us can answer. Who really benefits – the shoppers and taxpayers, or the farmer who sees his profit shrinking every year?"

Druze find evidence of village massacre

Continued from page 1

by both Phalangist and Druze in the towns south east of the capital.

First reports of a slaughter of Druze at Kfar Matta came on September 5 and the Phalange at first offered to take journalists to the village to prove the claims untrue. At the last moment, however, they cancelled the trip, claiming the area was too dangerous for reporters to enter.

As always in Lebanon, there are unanswered questions. For the past five months, Lebanese Government troops have controlled much of the ruined village. They were driven out two days ago but – if they moved anywhere in that part of the village where corpses were seen lying yesterday – conditions must have been quite horrific for them. Yet many of the bodies were found in fields and had been there so long that bushes had actually grown through the cadavers.

Behind the roomful of bodies, bullet holes could be seen on the wall and several corpses had apparently fused together with age. The film also showed a grassy slope upon which lay a badly decomposed body in a small boy's clothes.

Last September, the Druze said more than a hundred of their people had been killed in Kfar Matta by the Phalange. Yesterday they said they had found 107 bodies. For President Gemayel, fighting to save his presidency with both his Government and army in pieces, the discovery of the murders could not come at a worse time.

Until he became President, he was himself a senior official of the Phalange, whose militia carried out the Sabra and Chatila massacre after Israeli troops sent them into the Palestinian camps in 1981. Now the Phalangists are being accused of yet more mass killings.

An official of the International Red Cross confirmed in Beirut last night that delegates of his organization had seen the bodies of civilians lying in the streets of Kfar Matta last September.

"We don't know whether they were killed by shelling or in crossfire but we saw dead people" he said.

"It is beyond our job to investigate whether it is a massacre or not. At the time, the security situation was very bad and for security reasons we could not take them out".

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of World Wildlife Fund International returns to London after his visit to the headquarters of World Wildlife Fund in Zeist, The Netherlands, arrives (Heathrow 4).

Music

Piano recital by John Savory, Art Gallery, Bury St. Edmunds, 12.45.

Piano recital by Angela Brownbidge, Holburne Museum, Bath, 7.30.

Orchestral Concert by Northern Sinfonia Orchestra, St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle, 7.30.

General

Hearts and flowers at the Dominican Friary, a spectacular flower festival on the theme of Saint Valentine, by North Ferriby and District Flower Club, Friars Lane, Eastgate, Beverley, North Humberside (until the 19th), 10 to 6.

Last appearance of the Glasgow Print Studio Co-Operative Press Gang: Alasdair Gray and Friends, Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

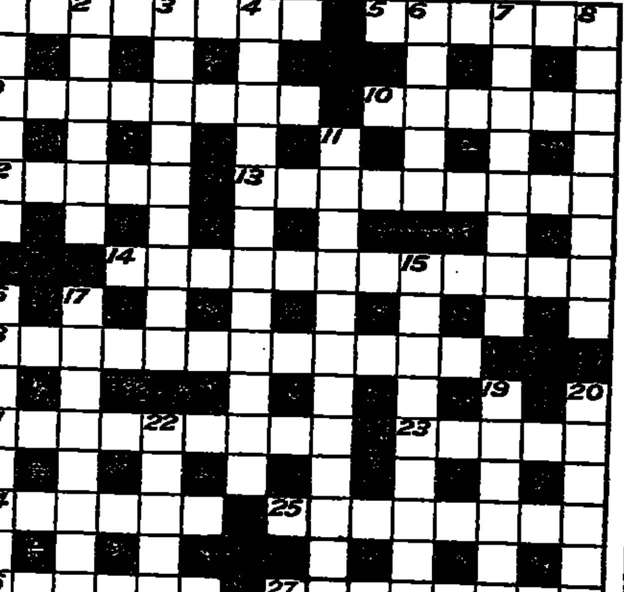
Wet Paint – Recent Work; Festival Gallery, 1 Pierrepont Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5; closed Sun & Mon (ends March 3).

Mapping the New World; ancient maps and portraits; Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, (closed Sundays) (ends March 2).

"Action in Sport" by Simon Painter; Helios Pictures, 2 Salisbury Road, Moseley, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 6, closed Sun. (ends March 7).

Aston Hall Past and Present: a country house preserved, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends April 1).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,357



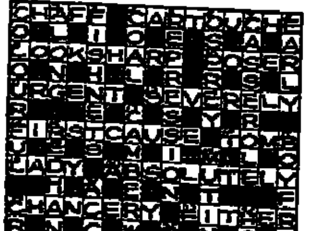
ACROSS

1 Needing antidote? (8).
5 Entertainment for upper class in reduced circumstances (6).
9 Centre circle – where passes lead to attacks (4-4).
10 Transport left one in one capital or another (6).
12 Singular information given to Caesar (5).
13 Island group that is in a muddle (9).
14 Medical assistant for well-read consultant (6,6).
18 Abandon TV for toy (4-2-3-3).
21 Aware of not being cold (9).
23 Cheese pair put back between ends of Gorgonzola (5).
24 Attack position of highwayman's victim (6).
25 This citizen, falling off bridge, pronounced insane? (8).
26 Simpleton liable to end up in the soup (6).
27 Man of the moment actually appearing (2,6).

DOWN

1 Vital urge one found in Liberal Party (6).
2 Brief expression of thanks after farewell dance (6).
3 Perceive its boom right and left, when going off? (9).
4 A sound one essential for healthy state? (12).
6 I ultimately gain about a penny – that's absurd (5).
7 Escallop in a stew causing prostration (8).
8 Turning informer about strike-leader in US prison (4,4).
11 Plough-boy, young rustic (8,4).
15 Juxtaposed with a hypotenuse, for example (9).
16 Removal of 25 I notice in distress outside (8).
17 Give incorrect score in a summary of play (8).
19 Obligations avoided by runners (6).
20 Churchman's pronouncement destroyed 600? (6).
22 Travel faster on water than on land? (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,356



Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private Member's motion on new technology.

Wildlife films

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is to show three short films tomorrow at the Royal Festival Hall. The films – on eagles, swans and garden wildlife – will be shown at 3 pm and 7 pm. Tickets £1.80-£2.90 from the RFH box office.

Fishermen's tales

The British Waterways Board has agreed to hold talks with the National Federation of Anglers to improve the management of angling throughout the board's 2,000-mile system of canals and river navigations, together with its associated reservoirs. Discussions will include management of fisheries, improvement of fish stocks and the provision of better facilities.

Young musicians

The opening audition for the 1984 National Festival of Music for Youth will be held on Monday, February 27 (10–5.30) at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London. The audition, which has attracted 500 young musicians, is the first of 24 held regionally. Sponsored by W H Smith, they are all open to the public and admission is free. The festival is the most comprehensive of its kind in Europe; 4,000 young musicians will appear at the National Festival of Music for Youth at the South Bank concert halls on July 12, 13 and 14.

Anniversaries

Births: Arcangelo Corelli, composer and violinist, Fusignano, Italy, 1653. Deaths: Moliere, Paris, 1673; Johann Pestalozzi, educational reformer, Brugg, Switzerland 1827; John Martin, historical painter, Douglas, Isle of Man, 1854; Heinrich Heine, poet, Paris, 1856; Henry Olcott, cofounder of the Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras, 1907; Geronimo, Apache leader, Fort Sill Oklahoma, 1908; Sir Wilfred Laurier, first French-Canadian Prime Minister of Canada, 1896-1911, Ottawa, 1919.

Food prices

The recently-publicized and contentious subsidies to British sheep farmers have failed to prevent a continuing rise in home-produced lamb prices. In Sainsbury's, a whole leg is £1.86 per lb, and loin chops £2.32 per lb. In contrast, beef, usually a more popular buy at this time of year, anyway, is down to £1.89 for topside and silverside.

But New Zealand lamb is considerably cheaper, with legs from £1.24 to £1.46 per lb in most shops. Shoulder is 64p to 89p and best end chops 89p to £1.40. Other good buys are forerib of beef at Tesco, £1.58 per lb, boneless brisket £1.56, and porterhouse steak £2.98; boneless pork shoulder in Safeways down 50p per lb to 89p; leg of pork in Fine Fare for 98p; fresh chicken in Fine Fare 64p per lb and Sainsbury's, 59p.

Fish prices are generally steady with large cod fillets, haddock, plaice and whiting all up by 1p per lb on average, but herring and mackerel down by 3p lb to 86p and 49p respectively. Marks & Spencer have reduced the price of smoked salmon by 75p a pack.

Cyprus new potatoes, at 15-20p a lb, are excellent quality and economical, as there is very little waste. Root vegetables are generally good buys with swedes slightly cheaper this week at 8p to 15lb. Green vegetables are a little more expensive – sprouts, 20p to 30p, calabrese 60–80p, green peppers 65-80p and aubergines 60–90p a lb. Cauliflowers at 40p to 50p each are much cheaper than at this time last year.

Round lettuce, is rather scarce at 25p to 35p a head, but Chinese leaves may be cheaper at 30p to 50p per lb; first English cucumbers are in the shops at around 70p each. Citrus fruit is still abundant; grapefruit selling at from 10p to 25p each, orange 6p to 18p each, seedless satsumas 20 20p to 30p lb, and clementines 28p to 32p as lb. Marks & Spencer have reduced small pineapples to 49p and medium sized to 99p each. Rhubarb, at 44p to 55p a lb is not just for fools and tarts.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.58	1.50
Austria Sch	28.30	26.70
Belgium Fr	84.25	80.25
Canada $	1.85	1.78
Denmark Kr	14.60	13.90
Finland Mkk	8.65	8.25
France Fr	12.22	11.72
Germany DM	3.98	3.80
Greece Dr	164.00	154.00
Hongkong $	11.45	10.85
Ireland Pt	1.30	1.24
Italy Lira	2460.00	2360.00
Japan Yen	350.00	334.00
Netherlands Gld	4.52	4.30
Norway Kr	11.48	10.88
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00
South Africa Rd	1.96	1.82
Spain Pta	227.50	218.50
Sweden Kr	11.97	11.37
Switzerland Fr	3.29	3.12
USA $	1.48	1.43
Yugoslavia Dnr	210.00	200.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 342.6.

London: The *FT* Index closed 1.3 up at 817.9.

Roads

Wales and West: A470: 24-hr temporary traffic signals in Plymouth Street Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Galmorgan and at Edwardsville. M5: North and South-bound carriageway lane closures between junctions 8 and 9 due to roadworks. A470: 24-hour temporary traffic signals on Builth Wells-Brecon Road at Erwood, Powys.

North: A1: Contraflow on Gatherley to Scotch Corner Road, North Yorkshire. A689: Graffic lights at Waskerley Bridge, Wolsingham, Co Durham. A19/A1046: reconstruction work at Portrack roundabout, north of river Tees, Cleveland.

Scotland: A32: One-lane traffic in Great Western Road between Cromwell Street and Napiershall Street. A32: Glasgow: Single-lane traffic with lights 4 miles north of Tarbet. A987: Single-lane traffic with lights between A907 junction and Cullaloe reservoir; delays at peak times.

Information supplied by AA

The papers

The Daily Star points out an opinion poll confirms that public support for the Tories is unwavering. Indeed the Government has increased its lead over Labour in the latest Gallup survey from 3½ points in January to 9½ points now. "What can be the reason?", it asks. "Surely Mrs Thatcher and her ministers have been publicly falling about all over the place – like some political Crazy gang – since the June election. Perhaps they have, but consider this too: for the umpteenth month in succession, wage levels have kept ahead of price levels, overtime working is steadily increasing, short-time working is falling, output is rising. In other words, for those people with a job – thankfully still a large majority of the working population – life continues to get better and better."

The Sun says that Mrs Thatcher is right to stand firm over the decision to ban trade unions from the Cheltenham spy centre. "Neither Sir Geoffrey Howe's bungling nor the bleats from a few Tory faint hearts on a Commons committee must be allowed to conceal the essential truth. The Government had to act in face of the appalling record of industrial sabotage in a department vital to national security. The Civil Service unions are now offering all manner of assurances about their behaviour in the future. Why the sudden change of heart? Is not the reason the obvious one – that the Government have got tough."

Top films

Top box office films in London:
1 (1) Scarface
2 (2) Sudden Impact
3 (–) Under Fire
4 (4) Trading Places
5 (3) Gorky Park
6 (7) Lianna
7 (5) The Honorary Consul
8 (8) La Traviata
9 (6) Never Say Never Again
10 (–) Educating Rita.

Top five in the provinces:
1 Sudden Impact
2 Gorky Park
3 The Jungle Book and Micky's Christmas Carol
4 Trading Places
5 The Honorary Consul

Compiled by Screen International.

Weather

Northern Scotland will be rather cloudy with isolated light showers, central and Southern Scotland, Northern Ireland, Northern England and western parts of Wales will be rather cloudy with light rain or drizzle dying out.

6am to midnight

London, SE; central S, E, central N England, East Anglia, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy, any mist and fog patches thinning to give hazy sunshine; wind S to SE, light or moderate; max temp 3 to 5C (37 to 41F).
SW, NW England, S, N Wales: Rather cloudy, a little drizzle over windward coasts and hills dying out, some bright intervals in sheltered places; wind S, moderate, occasionally fresh; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).
Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Light rain or drizzle dying out; rather cloudy but some bright intervals developing; wind S to SW fresh or strong; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).
Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, rather cloudy but some bright intervals developing; wind S to SW, strong; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).
NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, isolated light showers; wind S or SW strong locally gale; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Rather cold and dry in S and E, cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle in N and W and near normal temperatures.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea; Strait of Dover; English Channel (E): Wind S light increasing fresh, fair; sea smooth becoming moderate. St George's Channel; Irish Sea: Wind S moderate or fresh, occasionally strong, sea moderate.

Sun rises: 7.12 am — Sun sets: 5.18 pm
Moon sets: 7.58 am — Moon rises: 5.55 pm
Full Moon: 12.41am.

Lighting-up time

London 5.48 pm to 6.40 am
Bristol 5.58 pm to 6.50 am
Edinburgh 5.49 pm to 7.03 am
Manchester 5.52 pm to 6.53 am
Penzance 6.12 pm to 6.59 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	6	43	Guernsey	c	1	34
Birmingham	c	-1	30	Inverness	c	8	45
Blackpool	c	-1	30	Jersey	c	0	32
Bristol	f	2	36	London	c	2	36
Cardiff	c	2	36	Manchester	c	0	32
Edinburgh	c	6	43	Newcastle	c	0	32
Glasgow	c	7	45	Ronaldsway	c	6	43

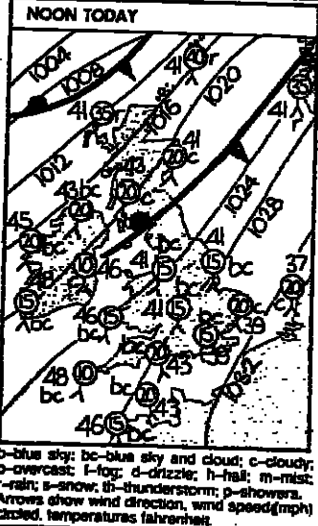
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 3C (37F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 0C (32F). Humidity: 6 pm, 71 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,030.8 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Highest and lowest

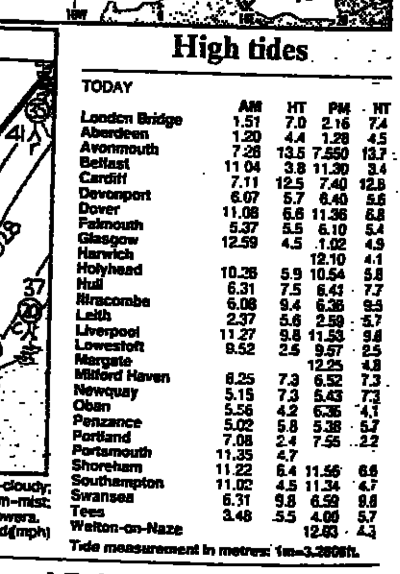
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Isles of Scilly, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Cottesmore, –1C (30F); highest rainfall: Benbecula, 0.35 in; highest sunshine: Stornoway, 3.5 hr.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)

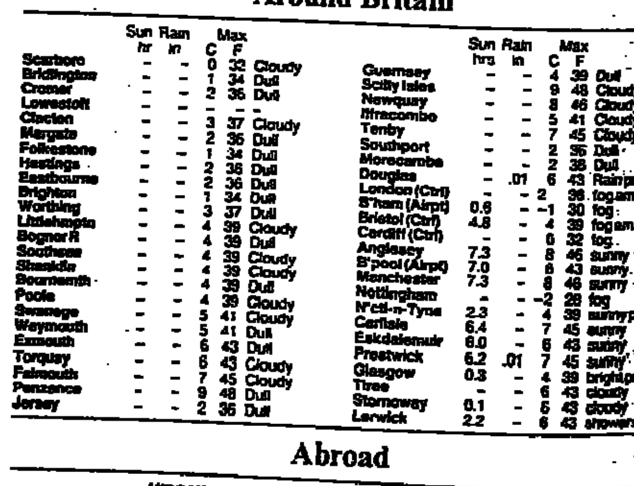


b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; r–rain; s–snow. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperature fahrenheit.

High tides



Around Britain



Abroad

